セブンス

5

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Table of Contents

Prologue

Chapter 56 – Their Respective Task

Chapter 57 – Harem Party

Chapter 58 – Lyle's Answer

Chapter 59 – Trial And Error

Chapter 60 – The Targeted Party

Chapter 61 – Its Name Is

Chapter 62 – Armored Vehicle

Chapter 63 – Fruits of Labor

Chapter 64 – Foe

Chapter 65 – Cleaning Up

Chapter 66 – I Am Kind

「お前、これまでいったい何人の同業者を殺してきた？」
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7th

荒ぶる
雀の構え
「その名も荒ぶる雀の構えです！」
ポヨポヨがおもむろに両手を上げ、ついで片足を上げた。

「ソフィアさん!?」
バトルアックスは回転して
リザードマンの一体を
仕留めると……

「ようやくここまで来ましたね」
これまで荷車を改造して試行錯誤を繰り返す日々を過ごしてきた訳だが、全ては今日この日のためだ。
「これでこの”ポーター“は完成だ」

「せっかく四人で顔を合わせているわけですし、話をしませんか？」
ポーターの後部。
ノウェム、アリア、ソフィア、ミランダ。
四人が無言で座っている。向かい合わせのベンチである。
嫌でも顔を見なければいけない状況で、
四人は押し黙っていた。ノウェムが話題を振る。

INTRODUCTION

アーツに頼りすぎている事を危惧した歴代当主たちが、
ライエルのために課題を用意する。
それは、アーツと銀の大剣の使用を禁止した状態で――
「アラムサースの地下迷宮、その三十階を攻略すること」――である。
急にアーツの使用を止めてしまうライエルに不信感を募らせるアリアやソフィア。
そして、二人を煽るミランダ。静観しているノウェムに絡むポヨポヨ。
パーティー内に問題を抱えていては、満足に攻略も出来ないため
ライエルはアラムサースで失敗を繰り返す日々を過ごしていた。
同じハーレムパーティーの冒険者に人間関係を
相談するも、上手く行かず悩むライエル。
まるでわざと人間関係を壊そうとしているかのようなミランダ。
ミランダに責められるアリアとソフィア。
能力を活かしきれないシャノンの駄目さ。
仲間になりそうでならないクラーラという優秀なサポート。
課題の真意を教えようとはしない歴代当主たち。
様々な問題を前にライエルは頭を抱えるのだった。
そんなライエルが迷宮攻略のために
見つけたのは――新たなる仲間だった。

illustration ともぞ

CONTENTS

歴代当主アーツ紹介 …… 004
プロローグ …… 007
第五十六話 それぞれの課題 …… 039
第五十七話 ハーレムパーティー …… 063
第五十八話 ライエルの答え …… 091
第五十九話 試行錯誤 …… 117
第六十話 狙われるパーティー …… 148
第六十一話 名は …… 176
第六十二話 装甲車 …… 193
第六十三話 成果 …… 222
第六十四話 賊 …… 254
第六十五話 後始末 …… 301
第六十六話 私は優しい …… 322
エピローグ …… 345

Prologue

This is sudden but, I hate the existence called little sister.

Of course, it is also related to my biological little sister, Celes, who was the cause of why I, Lyle Walt, was chased out from my house.

Right now I was in a completely different place. In addition, this also wasn't the time to think about something like that, however I couldn't help but run from reality.

This place is the underground labyrinth of the academy city Arumsaas.

And then, right now we had only just finished a battle.

I was dirty with sweat and dust. I wiped my sticky cheek with the back of my hand.

The smell of my glove's leather stimulated my nose.

"……Just what in the world should I do?"

Squabbling in front of my eyes was Aria Lockwarde whose curly red hair was singed at the tip and Sophia Rowley who had long black hair.

Aria-san was dressed in easy to move clothes, but her clothes were also slightly singed similar to her hair.

Whether it was her clothes or protective armor, she wore things that made her body line clear to see.

She was using a spear. Because she was moving around, heavy equipment would slow her down.

In contrast, Sophia-san was wearing heavy equipment on top of a robe.

She disliked showing her skin, in addition she was carrying a large axe—a battleaxe on her back.

Sophia-san was the opposite of Aria-san, a heavily equipped warrior. She was staring at a part of her hair that was cut and became tearful.

Aria-san was showing her singed hair and equipment to Sophia-san while pressing on her.

"Wait, why didn’t you dodge at that time!? Because of that I got covered with flames!"

Sophia-san retorted back.

"It was because Aria swung your spear around! I got distracted by that……I almost got injured seriously there!"

The one who was trying to calm down the two was my former fiancée who was tying her long light brown hair in a side ponytail.

She was dressed like a magician and her hand was holding a silver staff.

Her name was Novem Forxuz. She was a magician just like her appearance suggested.

"Both of you, please calm down. For now, let’s talk together calmly. Okay?"

The cause of the two’s quarrel was what happened in the middle of the last battle.

Magic was fired from behind them who went forward as the vanguard.

Sophia-san cut into the firing line of that magic.

Sophia-san hit back the magic with her battleaxe. The magic—the fireball that got its direction changed burst nearby Aria-san.

I was shocked that such thing happened.

Anyway, we defeated the monsters even while in shock, and when things calmed down, the two started to quarrel.

The one who was dismantling magic stones and materials from the monsters was the adventurer who we hired as the party's supporter.

She was a petite girl wearing glasses with characteristic blue hair and red eyes, Clara Bulmer.

Her left arm was conspicuous. Her arm starting from the upper arm was a prosthetic hand that looked like armor.

Clara-san muttered in exasperation.

"To me it looks like there is a problem with both of them though."

Hearing those words of Clara-san, a girl with green hair and eyes laughed while talking.

She had an atmosphere like a big sister, but the cause of Aria-san and Sophia-san—the magic was fired by this person.

Her name was Miranda Circry.

She was enrolled in Arumsaas's academy, a young lady from a Viscount house.

Similar to my former fiancée Novem, I had ties with this girl as well as a possible marriage partner.

We met in Arumsaas and right now she became our comrade.

"They aren’t attacking each other with their weapons so it’s fine. Just let them vent."

Miranda-san was making a suggestion to leave them alone looking like she was having fun instead. I pressed on my blue hair with my hand while shaking my head.

"No, we should stop them here."

Miranda-san seemed to sense my feeling of "The cause was your magic wasn’t it" from my gaze and she shrugged.

"I was instructed by Lyle so I fired my magic, before that I had also called out to those two. It’s upsetting to be thought of as the source of the problem. In the first place, if you say that then that means the problem lies with Lyle who gave the instruction."

I who suddenly got criticized took a step back.

Certainly, I became uneasy wondering if using magic at that timing was the wrong decision.

Miranda-san seemed delighted seeing me like this.

When I turned my gaze to Clara-san, she gave me assistance even while sighing slightly.

"I cannot assert that it was a mistake based on the timing. Certainly there was a problem, but Miranda-san had also called to the two beforehand. I cannot say that it’s only Lyle-san who is in the wrong."

I was relieved that there was someone who backed me up.

However, it was Aria-san and Sophia-san who couldn’t accept Clara-san’s opinion.

The two protested at me.

"In the first place, until now there wasn’t any need to call out before firing magic!"

"That’s right. It’s only natural to be unable to react after the method is suddenly changed!"

This time we advanced through the passage and bumped with a group of monsters. From there it became a battle. Until now using the Arts from the Jewel hanging on my neck I would be able to detect the enemy beforehand.

In a situation where I couldn’t do that, I was unable to give instructions like before.

At best I could only tell them what kind of approach we were using against the encountered enemy.

"Because monsters suddenly showed up. Besides, I was wondering that perhaps it’s bad to make only the two vanguards deal with the enemies alone."

When I made my excuse, Aria-san placed her spear on her shoulder.

She averted her gaze from me in dissatisfaction.

"Then, just use your Arts already! It’s meaningless doing something like this."

It wasn’t just Aria-san who looked dissatisfied.

Sophia-san was also agreeing with Aria-san’s opinion.

"I don’t know the reason why you aren’t using your Arts but, this place is still floor B4. Even though previously we advanced until floor B40, this time we could only advance until this far in one day. I cannot think that there’s any meaning in it."

My shoulders dropped.

We could easily conquer the dungeon if using the Arts.

We could but……right now I couldn’t use them.

Physical strengthening, position detection of the surroundings, mental interference, increased travel speed, terrain grasping, enemy position detection, tool storage……those convenient Arts were sealed.

To be more accurate, I wasn’t permitted to use them.

A terrifying punishment would wait if I used them.

"No, you know, it’s that……I’m thinking, to reevaluate our party, or like, checking how far we can go without relying on Arts."

The reason for my vague response lied in the prohibition of the Arts.

Inside the heirloom Jewel hanging on my neck, the memories of six ancestors of the Walt House were residing.

They possessed their own will and could talk to me.

A lot of times I was helped by the ancestors’ knowledge rather than the Arts.

But, they one-sidedly declared the prohibition of me using the Arts without making the reason why clear to me.

I didn’t understand the reason for the prohibition.

Inside me there were several prospects about what could be the reason, but I didn’t understand which was the correct one so I couldn’t explain myself with confidence.

Because of that, the atmosphere inside the party was becoming bad.

Aria-san roughly messed up her hair.

"That’s why, I’m telling you it’s meaningless. This is our third time entering the dungeon since your Arts were prohibited. We can’t advance properly even after three times."

Exactly.

Not only that—

"I don’t want to say it but, the money to hire Clara-san is becoming a great burden. In the first place, we don’t earn anything so we’re in the red isn’t it?"

Actually we wanted to advance further, and the assistance of Clara-san was essential no matter what in order to prepare for that.

That was why we hired her, but because we couldn’t advance as planned, it became pointless to hire Clara-san.

We got into the red from the work in the dungeon this time too.

Taking into consideration the payment to Clara-san for the preparations in order to enter the dungeon, the money we earned was completely insufficient.

It was Novem who helped me who was feeling down.

Unlike before, she was starting to lecture the two with a strong tone.

"Both of you are speaking too far. Besides, it’s also a fact that we are relying too much on Lyle-sama’s Arts. In order to prepare in the case something happens, we need to learn the situation when the Arts cannot be used like this."

While I was feeling saved by Novem’s correct argument, Clara-san talked to us.

"I’m sorry to interrupt everyone’s talk but……we’re making too much ruckus. The monsters are gathering here."

When everyone followed Clara-san’s gaze, we could see a group of goblins making the sounds of scraping metal over there.

There was still some distance, so I pulled out the saber on my waist.

"Novem, prepare to burn them away with magic. After that—"

Aria-san and Sophia-san seemed irritated by my instruction. They rushed out without listening till the end.

My hand reached out towards their backs.

"Eh, wait…..e, eh?"

It was troubling that they were acting by themselves. As expected we couldn’t use magic that might drag allies into it.

Miranda-san talked to me before starting to run.

"I’ll back them up. Watch our backs okay?"

"Ah, yes."

I replied. Now I didn’t understand who was the leader of this party.

.

[I wonder how I should say it.]

[I never even imagined that it would be this horrible.]

[Red……red they said. Novem-chan and the others are in the red?]

[It’s really wrong of them to ignore orders but, Lyle’s attitude was also bad.]

[Lyle, someone who acts as a commander has to be careful of what he says. It’s no good if you make your surroundings uneasy.]

[Isn’t it good that at least he learned that at this stage?]

The six ancestors sitting around the round table.

Starting from the Second who was dressed as a hunter, the Third until the Seventh were speaking in turn. No one was saying something kind to me.

Especially horrible was the Fourth who was irritated because we were in the red.

A tall man whose blue hair was parted to one side with the ratio of 7:3 and wearing glasses.

The Fourth looked the most serious if he was looked from only his appearance.

He was known in the history of the Walt House as a character with the disposition of a civil official who displayed his ability in domestic affairs.

But, this was what I thought after seeing the reality.

This person was someone who loved money.

[Lyle, listen well. I’m not telling you to not spend money on your preparations. But, at the very least please aim to be in the black. In the red……what’s more it’s the third time with this.]

It seemed he was shocked because we got into the red.

"Err, it will help if the prohibition to use Arts is lifted though."

The Fourth who was shocked by being in red immediately replied to my suggestion.

[Rejected. I cannot permit that.]

This.

The ancestors prohibited me from using Arts without telling me the reason.

The condition so they would recognize the user of Arts was to conquer the floor B30 of Arumsaas underground dungeon without the use of my Arts.

Anyway, they wouldn’t compromise with this condition.

In addition, the silver weapon that the First left behind—even the great sword was forbidden to use.

The Fourth took off his glasses and wiped the lenses.

[We absolutely won’t allow the use of Arts until you accomplish the task.]

"In that case, can you tell me why you forbid the use of the Arts?"

It was the Third who answered my question.

[Think by yourself. Well, just consider it as one of your tasks too.]

They didn’t answer my question like this.

My grandfather the Seventh talked to me.

[Lyle, it’s also important to find the answer by yourself. In order to do that, even if several years passed we won’t allow the use of Arts. If you want to quickly use the Arts, then conquer the floor B30 right away.]

Floor B30—how many adventurers in Arumsaas were able to do such a thing?

I heard that the party who accomplished it in the past gathered dozens of people before challenging the dungeon.

Our party right now had five people with the addition of Miranda-san.

Even with Clara-san being temporarily hired, we only had six people.

If I wanted to accomplish the task with a proper method, it would surely take several years for it.

"Are you all telling me to increase the number of people?"

The Third was grinning.

[That depends on Lyle. Oops, it’s better that you wake up soon.]

When the Third said that, my consciousness left the Jewel and returned to my body.

.

My body was shaken and I opened my eyes.

Floor B3 of the dungeon.

We were resting inside a cramped room in the middle of our return to the surface.

Originally we were planning to aim for floor B10 within three days.

However, the fact was we were only able to advance until half of it during these three days. It signified our current strength.

"Lyle-sama, it’s time."

"Yeah, my bad. Eh?"

Everyone was awake when I looked around.

Originally there should be no way that everyone was awake. I should be awake before that to take my turn as a lookout.

"……Could it be, I overslept?"

Novem smiled.

"No, Lyle-sama looked tired so I let you sleep. I took over as the lookout so please don’t worry."

I hurriedly stood up.

"So, sorry. Let’s depart right—"

Novem stopped the panicking me.

"Please eat before that. We only need to return to the surface, but we cannot let our guard down."

I took the meal presented to me within the awkward atmosphere.

It was bread and soup.

But, the taste of the soup was……terrible.

It was bitter and watery.

Bluntly speaking it wasn’t tasty.

When I spontaneously pressed on my chest and choked, Novem prepared water for me.

Sophia-san opened her mouth from some distance away.

"Look, even Lyle-dono has the same reaction. Aria, the food is a failure just as I said. It’s a flavored hot water rather than a soup. Rather having no taste will make it better isn’t it?"

It seemed it was Aria-san who was on cooking duty. She was making excuses in shame.

"I thought a mild flavor will be better because we’re tired! Sophia’s flavoring is thick so you won’t get the good points of my cooking though."

"Aria’s flavoring is too bland. We won’t be able to get energy eating that."

The two were totally opposite on the matter of flavoring.

I softened the bread with the soup and ate it and finished the meal right away as though washing it down into my stomach.

I looked at Aria-san with a smile but, my cheeks were twitching.

"I, it was delicious."

Both Aria-san and Sophia-san were turning a doubtful gaze at me.

Miranda-san was giggling.

She was having fun looking at our situation.

"Lyle, the lie just now was terrible. Because everyone is thinking that it’s bad. Even Aria honestly thought that it was a failure, didn’t you?"

Aria-san looked down.

"My, my bad. I’m not used with the seasoning in Arumsaas."

Even I had something that I understood from our travels.

That was how the taste of food differed depending on the locality.

It seemed that there would be subtle differences even within the same region. Even the common home cooking would have some kind of difference at Arumsaas and the city where we were living previously.

After all there were differences in the meat and vegetables that were procured.

There was also vegetables that I had never seen before.

Aria-san too must be troubled on how to cook before the ingredients of Arumsaas.

The Second spoke out from inside the Jewel.

[When I saw them quarreling because of seasoning, it reminds me of my mother and my wife.]

The Third spoke in nostalgia.

[Yeah. Granny came from the northern part of Bahnseim. The seasoning there was particularly strong. The north is cold, so it caused the cooking's seasoning to become strong it seems.]

Their voices could only be heard by me.

That was why, no one knew about me obtaining assistance from the six past ancestors of the Walt House.

It was the ancestors who told me how the surroundings would see me if I mentioned about them.

They said that if I couldn't show any clear proof about them helping me, then staying quiet like this would be better for me.

As for me, I wanted to tell the people around me that the memory of my ancestors was resurrected inside the Jewel hanging around my neck.

I wanted them to know how I was annoyed thanks to these guys sucking my mana and making a ruckus.

The blue Jewel of the Walt House allowed the past ancestors to give me advice, in addition it even taught me how to use the Arts. It was a useful tool if you only heard about that part.

However, it was sucking mana from me. Furthermore the amount that they were sucking was so much it was like my mana got shaved with a scraping sound.

Because of that, before this I fainted many times and collapsed.

Thanks to that, people thought of me as a weakling.

In addition, because I got carried into the city on the back of a girl, I was getting famous in Arumsaas as a pathetic man.

It was greatly troubling.

While I was thinking that, Aria-san muttered in a low voice.

"Sophia was raised in the countryside, that’s why you don’t understand the taste of the city."

Recently Aria-san was snappy.

Aria-san was also the same like that.

"The taste of the city? I can’t understand what is good from Aria’s soup. If it’s like this then the one made by the automaton is still better."

It seemed those words stepped on Aria-san’s landmine.

"Now you said it! Besides, if you're saying that then even Sophia can't win against her! What's with you, losing against an automaton even though you were taught how to cook!"

It was Novem who acted to stop the two whose argument was gradually getting intense.

"Enough already both of you. The break time is over. Let's depart after we finish tidying up."

Clara-san who was sitting while reading a book a slight distance away was persisting with an attitude of it wasn't any concern of hers.

She was the only one here who was a temporarily hired party member. Her relationship with us was a contractual one.

Miranda-san was grinning.

"Oh, over already? I wanted to watch a bit more though."

Miranda-san who was really skilled. She was someone who could do everything skillfully, from being a vanguard to being a rear guard.

"Miranda-san, can I ask you to not provoke them too much?"

Miranda-san smiled slightly coldly at Novem's request and replied.

"Won't it be healthier to slightly argue at each other truthfully? Well, I guess it will be better for me to obey your instructions seeing that I'm the newcomer in the party. I'll be patient until I become Lyle's number one."

The atmosphere in that place became even worse.

Everyone closed their mouths. Only the sound of Clara-san turning a page could be heard.

If I have to mention a flaw of Miranda-san, it was her personality.

The Fifth was slightly appalled.

[……This is Milleia’s great-grandchild?]

Miranda-san’s great grandmother was a woman named Milleia from the Walt House.

In other words, Miranda-san and I were distantly related—no, were we already mostly unrelated? Anyway, she was a woman related to the ancestors starting from the Fifth and below.

The Fifth’s daughter.

The Sixth’s little sister.

The Seventh’s aunt.

When Miranda-san who was the great granddaughter of such woman joined my party, she proclaimed in front of everyone "I want to be Lyle’s number one".

Since then, the party’s atmosphere felt strangely strained.

The Sixth was groaning in bewilderment.

[The great grandchild of that kind Milleia, how did she turn out like this?]

But, it was only the Seventh who seemed to have a bit of an idea. He didn’t say clearly how and where Miranda-san and Milleia-san were similar, but he felt convinced when he saw Miranda-san.

[She is undoubtedly Oba-ue’s great grandchild.]

There were only females around me. This kind of party was rare among the adventurers.

Speaking of adventurers, the image I had about them was a more manly gathering of comrades with a good relationship.

Or rather, a lot of parties that I happened to see in the guild were like that.

A party with only one man and the rest were women seemed to be extremely few. I too had never seen a party like that until now.

Everyone closed their mouths and began tidying up the baggage silently. Even though previously there were more smiles, the atmosphere changed completely with Miranda-san joining up.

"……I wonder, where did I make a mistake?"

The noisy bunch was commenting by turn when I muttered that to myself.

[The atmosphere worsened since Miranda joined isn't it?]

[No, in the first place there is a problem with Lyle's attitude I think?]

[If I have to say where did you make a mistake……as I thought, it was that time when you had just arrived in Arumsaas I guess? Remember, there was that short rebellious phase of Lyle.]

[That was terrible huh.]

[Lyle, you better shape up more.]

[In the first place, rather than a single mistake, isn't this the result of making mistakes continuously until now?]

……The ancestors who wouldn't give any decent advice.

The blue Jewel that I had, was it something cursed in reality?

.

It was already afternoon when we returned to the surface.

We who returned earlier than scheduled headed towards Arumsaas’s adventurer guild on foot.

Arumsaas had an academy at its center and it was called the Academy City.

In addition there was one other thing. There was also an entrance to an underground dungeon at the center of the city.

Having a dungeon at the center of the city was one of its great peculiarities that couldn’t be found in other cities.

The surrounding landscape that had no sense of unity.

We who were walking in the middle of that were given cold gazes from the citizens.

Adventurers were a bothersome existence for the residents of the city.

They were scared seeing us armed, as well as our bodies that, bluntly speaking, were stinky from the sweat and blood from fighting monsters.

From the viewpoint of the common citizen they wouldn’t want to get near us.

"Good grief, can’t something be done about the adventurers?"

"They’re spoiling Arumsaas’s scenery."

"Please look at that. A young man is leading around beautiful girls. It’s really envi—scandalous. They don’t know any shame."

Was it shameful for females to be adventurers?

I wanted to ask back like that, but I guess it was disagreeable for them seeing beautiful girls around me.

Recently I somehow came to understand.

From the perspective of me who knew of the internal conditions, it wasn't a relationship that could be envied, but……even if I said that other people would only hear it as sarcasm.

The Second was irritated.

[Who the hell they think it thanks to that Arumsaas is becoming rich. In the first place, if it's about the scenery then do something about this townscape that has no sense of unity at all.]

The Fourth seemed disinterested.

[Well, there're a lot of people who hate adventurers. To begin with, even the Seventh is also an adventurer hater.]

The Seventh was brazenly speaking of his hate of adventurers like usual.

[I hate them. Actually I don't want Lyle to become something like an adventurer if possible.]

We walked amidst the cold gazes.

The adventurer guild was located near the city's outer wall.

It was far away from the underground dungeon.

Perhaps because they were tired or because of the bad atmosphere, the party members didn't even try to make any talk.

I spoke out.

"We, we have time today, so how about we eat out with every—"

Aria-san refused.

"I want to go home clean myself up and lie down so I won't go."

Right away Sophia-san also spoke of her abstention.

"I also had eaten in the dungeon so I'll refrain."

Novem put her hands on her cheeks with a troubled look.

"As expected we can't eat out while leaving the two of them."

Recently both Aria-san and Sophia-san were treating me coldly.

Miranda-san made fun of me.

"Lyle, your maid will be sad if you speak about eating out you know?"

My maid……no, yep, she was my maid I guess.

It wasn't wrong but, was she really a maid?

Clara-san looked at me while speaking with a small voice in a bit of reservation.

"……I also have business in the library, so I'm thinking of parting at the guild."

My shoulders dropped and I smiled awkwardly.

"I, I see. The, then, let's go back right away."

I could hear snickers from inside the Jewel.

While I was irritated with the ancestors, Clara-san called me to stop.

.

We returned to Miranda-san's house after selling the magic stones and materials at the adventurer guild.

It would cost a lot to stay in an inn, so being able to live in a house like this was something to feel greatly grateful about.

"We’re home."

My feeling was gloomy when I opened the entrance’s door.

The amount of money we were able to exchange at the guild was so little.

As per the contract, the reward was on equal apportionment.

The supporter Clara-san got equal share and from there she was given further reward of seventy percent.

Because of that even Clara-san’s earning was also little.

Preparation was necessary in order to enter the dungeon, and naturally it cost money.

It was still better because we only scheduled for three days, but I couldn’t forget Clara-san’s words.

[If the situation stays like this, I wish to refrain from accepting another contract with the same conditions. If my service as a supporter is asked again next time, I wish to be allowed to decide the reward by myself.]

Clara-san’s livelihood was also hanging on this.

I couldn’t just tell her, we failed, and end it like that.

Taking that into consideration we were fortunate.

After all we had quite an amount in savings, and we didn’t need to pay for rent at Arumsaas like this—

"CHICKEN DICKWAAAAD!"

"GYAAAA!"

The reason I screamed was because of the person, no, the automaton who leaped at me the moment I opened the door.

The automaton with characteristic appearance of blonde hair in twintails and maid uniform that was the same color as her red eyes wasn't a human.

She was a legacy of a destroyed civilization. The automatic doll that was created by the ancient people—a mechanized doll.

She hated the name Poyopoyo that I named her, the self-proclaimed maid automaton with a screw loose in her head who insultingly called me as chicken dickwad.

When she jumped on the tired me, I ended up being pushed down.

"What the hell are you doing!"

Poyopoyo lifted up her upper body and blushed. A maid who had no problem with straddling me, I wanted to fire her.

"Will you have dinner, or will you take a bath? Or perhaps……you, want, me!"

She was making a cute pose, but I looked up at Poyopoyo with a cold gaze.

"……For now we're going to enter the bath in turn, so can you move away from me before that?"

"A serious reply huh! Chicken dickwad, please look a bit more embarrassed. This Poyopoyo is really lonely!"

The face of the female camp who were watching me and Poyopoyo in front of the entrance was looking really conflicted.

They knew about Poyopoyo’s eccentricity from living under the same roof, and yet I didn’t understand why they were also looking at me coldly.

Even though I wasn’t doing anything wrong. I wished they would stop looking at me with criticism.

While I was thinking that, Novem pushed away Poyopoyo from me.

"Poyopoyo-san, Lyle-sama is tired so please stop with that kind of indecent talk alright?"

Poyopoyo was irritated. But rather than because of Novem’s words, it was more towards Novem herself.

Since she was activated in the laboratory of an oddball named Damian Valle who was a professor in Arumsaas’s Academy, she was harboring animosity towards Novem without even trying to hide it.

"You’re annoying, this vixen. I won’t yield the role of taking care of chicken dickwad to anyone!"

This automaton was this eccentric and conspicuous, but she was really skilled as a maid servant.

She could do anything from cleaning, laundry, until cooking.

Because of that the inside of the house was always pleasant.

Miranda-san stretched her hands towards me. After I took her hand and stood up, a girl’s figure entered my sight.

A girl with a displeased face at the entrance—Shannon Circry was glaring at me.

She was Miranda-san’s little sister with wavy long purple hair and yellow eyes.

Her appearance was adorable, but her attitude towards me wasn’t cute in the slightest.

This girl hated me.

And then, I also hated this girl—Shannon.

It made me irritated seeing a little sister.

"Tsk, even though it’d be great if you alone didn’t come back."

She was a hopeless little girl who said this kind of thing.

She was two years younger than me, so she was the same age as Celes.

Even though just that alone already made me dislike her, this girl’s attitude towards me was also really bad.

"You’re annoying, you brat."

I also talked back to her, but the Fourth's exasperated voice came from the Jewel.

[Why are you getting worked up against a younger child?]

Shannon stuck out her tongue.

"Onee-sama became strange because of your fault! This gigolo bastard!"

"What did you say just now!?"

"Gigolo bastard, that's what I said. You're freeloading in this house of we sisters while you cannot even make any decent earnings. On top of that you're causing trouble for Onee-sama, this gigolo bastard!"

While I was getting irritated at Shannon who was saying gigolo bastard with a loud voice, the ancestors inside the Jewel were laughing loudly.

[Well, she is certainly not wrong!]

[Gigolo bastard! Yep, it isn't wrong!]

[……Puh]

[The house belongs to Miranda or rather to the Circry House, and recently you can't earn money so I can't say that she is wrong.]

[Haha~, Shannon too is hitting right on the mark huh.]

[Lyle, it'll be fine if you work hard next time……even so gigolo bastard she said.]

It rubbed me the wrong way hearing the Seventh holding back his laughter.

While I was getting vexed, Miranda-san hugged Shannon and lifted her up.

"Don’t say stupid things, at least say welcome back."

Shannon loved Miranda-san. Because of that she listened to what her beloved big sister told her.

"I, I’m sorry. Onee-sama, welcome back."

"Say it to everyone."

Miranda-san threatened. Shannon made a strange voice "Hih!" from her throat.

It was a good feeling.

"We, welcome back."

Miranda-san put Shannon back on the floor and patted her head.

"We’re home. Look, everyone is tired, so let’s move away from the entrance already. Poyopoyo and Novem too, keep the quarrel in moderation."

When I looked at the two, they were still arguing.

Novem was taken aback and returned to her senses at Miranda-san’s voice. She cleared her throat in embarrassment.

"……Pardon me. Now, Lyle-sama, please enter the bath first."

I shook my head.

"No, I’m fine entering last. Everyone should enter first."

Seeing that conversation between Novem and me, Poyopoyo was biting on a white handkerchief with a frustrated look.

"Even though I’m this devoted, chicken dickwad won’t even look at me……this might be good in its own way. Yep, I’m feeling delighted!"

Just when I thought Poyopoyo was crying in frustration just now, she was suddenly being all smiles. Her abundant expressiveness, or rather her extreme change was putting me off.

"……That’s scary for some reason."

"Why!? Wait, please don’t seriously draw away from me. If chicken dickwad hates me, I won’t be able to live!"

No, in the first place you were a machine so you couldn’t be called alive…….

While we were having that kind of exchange, Aria-san and Sophia-san who were standing a bit further away sent me a gaze as though they wanted to say something.

When our eyes met, the two of them entered into the house silently.

"If chicken dickwad doesn’t enter the bath, then first it will be a meal then. Please leave it to me. Today I’m making the favorite foods of chicken dickwad."

Novem made a troubled look at Poyopoyo while they were entering into the house together.

"It will be troubling if you prepare nothing but Lyle-sama’s favorite menu though."

"I won’t listen to a vixen’s opinion."

Only I remained there at the end.

When I moved to enter the house, Shannon’s face came out from inside.

"……Stu~pid"

Shannon said that before running back into the house. Seeing her I felt convinced once more.

"As I thought, a little sister is the worst."

.

—Aria who finished taking a bath and eating lied down on her bed and looked at the ceiling.

The house of the Circry sisters had a size that it could be called a mansion.

It also had rooms for several people. It was appreciated that each person could have their own room.

She had no dissatisfaction living in a group, but Aria noticed that recently there was a part of her that felt relieved when she was alone like this.

"It’s a failure today too."

She placed the back of her hand on her forehead.

Night had come outside the window.

She recalled what happened in the bath.

It would take time to enter one by one, so she took a bath together with Sophia. However, Sophia might be irritated that Aria made fun of her cooking as countryside cooking. She didn’t say a single word to her.

"I’m really no good."

She wanted to apologize, but she couldn’t honestly apologize.

Lately they would get into quarrels because of little things. Until now Novem would act as mediator and gave follow up to the people around her. Things were going well at that time.

However, Miranda was messing up that harmony. She was virtually inciting them, and Lyle who was seeing that without being able to do anything was also making her irritated.

(But, I'm the one who is the most disgusting……I kept making failures and dragged everyone down.)

The atmosphere was becoming bad since Miranda joined.

"Wanting to become Lyle's number one, is it."

Aria muttered Miranda's words.

When Miranda said it, she remembered that she certainly felt flustered.

Today too, she was spending the night in distress from being unable to find the answer for what she wanted to do.

Chapter 56 – Their Respective Task

I woke up together with the sunrise and went out to the garden, stretching my body.

The sunlight was strong and dazzling since the early morning in this season.

While I yawned while breathing in the fresh air, Shannon came out from the house in her pajamas rubbing her eyes.

Seeing me, she was making an obviously displeased face.

"What's with you?"

"I just don't want to see a disgusting guy's face right from the morning. Even though it would be great to not see your face if only Onee-sama didn't wake me up."

I was irritated at Shannon who was spouting whatever she liked.

"I hate you just so you know."

"Is that so. I hate you as well. One day I'll make Onee-sama open her eyes and chase you out from the house."

Shannon and I glared at each other since the morning.

This girl was outrageously stupid, but it seemed that the ability she had or rather her "eyes" were amazing.

She had "mystic eyes" that excelled in reading emotions and manipulating mana.

However, the strength of the person herself was too low that the eyes were unusable. This was what they called pearls thrown before swine.

My mood was getting worse. It was then that Poyopoyo came out. It seemed she was going to clean the garden from looking at the tools she was carrying.

"Oh, this is an unusual combination for the morning. It’s really great that you two get along well, but if this Poyopoyo is left out then at night I will be weeping. Right into your ear!"

Shannon and I spoke together in response to the automaton who was threatening to do harassment.

"We aren’t getting along!"

"We are not getting along!"

We glared at each other once more.

Poyopoyo was grinning cheerfully seeing that.

"My, the timing of the two of you also completely match each other. Putting that aside, why is Shannon over there also outside? Even though usually she would be sleeping in until the last minute."

Poyopoyo was fundamentally treating me specially, but she was treating everyone else equally rudely.

She called me chicken dickwad, but she called everyone else without any honorific.

And then for some reason she was calling Novem as vixen and harbored enmity towards her.

Shannon answered reluctantly.

"Onee-sama said, get up early and breathe the outside air. Even though she was kind before, Onee-sama became like that since you guys started staying here."

She was acting like a tragic heroine with crocodile tears but, this girl used those eyes—her mystic eyes to control her big sister in order to take revenge on her family. She was a fiend. But, it seemed that her idea of revenge was only some pranks that a kid would think of. Even so, there wasn't any need for any sympathy towards this kind of kid.

"You need to reflect on yourself a bit more. Or rather, I think this kind of treatment toward a little sister who was trying to control her mind is too kind instead."

"Shut up, you gigolo bastard!"

"Don't call me gigolo bastard!"

It seemed Shannon couldn't talk back when I calmly explained to her so she insulted me saying gigolo bastard. I hated her.

Then, Poyopoyo put down her cleaning tools on the ground.

"My, you two are really energetic right from the morning. Certainly waking up early is the key to a healthy life. Then, this Poyopoyo shall teach the both of you the right and proper traditional morning exercises."

Shannon an I looked at Poyopoyo.

"You can also do something like that?"

"I don't want to move right from the morning though. Rather, I want to sleep more."

Poyopoyo ignored us and spoke with an energetic voice.

"Well then! Lift up your arms from the front then stretch up, from there—"

When I moved my body imitating Poyopoyo’s movement, Shannon also reluctantly followed.

Like that we exercised for around five minutes and my body warmed up, but……Shannon was running out of breath beside me.

This girl who acted like a sickly daughter spent her days as a lazybone and had no stamina to speak of.

I laughed seeing that.

"What’s that? Could it be you cannot even do this much?"

Shannon got worked up hearing my words and snapped at me.

"Don’t get cocky just because you have slightly better stamina then me! I’ll ask Onee-sama to beat up the likes of you black and blue!"

I who had gotten beaten up once before this couldn’t laugh that off.

"That’s a really pathetic threat huh."

I scoffed at Shannon who only relied on her big sister for everything.

Shannon seemed to be irritated by that. She tried to kick my shin, but I could dodge it easily. When I grinned down at her, the petite Shannon was shaking and tried to kick me obstinately.

When I dodged her, Poyopoyo sighed looking at us.

"Haa……this can’t go on. Chicken dickwad’s movement is also too hopeless."

I looked at Poyopoyo hearing that.

"You can understand?"

The angry Shannon waved around both her hands toward me, so I held her head in place with my left hand.

Poyopoyo shook her twintails while making a pose.

"Of course ! This Poyopoyo is of course also installed with the understanding of martial arts. After all, martial arts is also one of a maid’s indispensable skills."

Shannon stopped resisting and looked at my face.

"Martial arts is an indispensable skill for a maid? That’s different from the servants that I know."

"You know, this things is broken after all. Besides, I can’t understand anything about the ancient people’s way of thinking."

It was tiring to take her words seriously, so Shannon and I looked at Poyopoyo with gazes as if we were looking at something pitiful.

Poyopoyo was flustered.

"Wa, wait! You two aren’t believing me. Do you think that this Poyopoyo is weak? Then that’s a misunderstanding."

Well, she was a machine so perhaps she was strong to some degree but…….

Poyopoyo took a stance.

"In that case I shall prove it. Come at me from anywhere!"

Shannon and I looked at each other.

"Look, give her some attention. She’s so pitiful."

"As expected, hitting something with the appearance of a girl is a bit……"

"You just pressed down on my head just now didn’t you!"

"No, in your case, I hate you."

Poyopoyo sat down on that spot and started to weep.

"You two said that you have a bad relationship while showing off that intimate relationship in front of this Poyopoyo like that. I’m not jealous or anything."

Perhaps sympathizing with the sulking automaton, the Second’s voice came from inside the Jewel.

[Give her some attention Lyle.]

It seemed that he was pitying her, but the Fifth was apparently a bit bothered by something.

[No, take her on seriously. That stance, she doesn’t look like an amateur at all.]

When he mentioned it I thought that there was no way that was the case while I approached Poyopoyo.

"Just once okay?"

Poyopoyo jumped to her feet happily and took a stance the instant she landed.

"As expected from chicken dickwad! Now, please come at me from anywhere you like!"

First I tried punching.

Then Poyopoyo who defended with her right hand was blown away.

"……Eh?"

Poyopoyo rolled on the ground before she immediately recovered her balance and stood up. Then she looked at the arm she used to defend and tilted her head.

From inside the Jewel there were chuckling voices that laughed at the Fifth.

At this kind of time it was the Third who would ridicule others.

[She doesn’t look like an amateur, he said. She got blown back just from a little punch see.]

The Fourth was angry at me.

[There’s no need to punch that strongly. In the first place, although she is a machine, Poyopoyo has the appearance of a girl. It’s astonishing you could punch her like that.]

Even I intended to hold back.

However, Poyopoyo was blown back further than I imagined.

Shannon looked at me.

"Apologize to her. As expected, just now was too cruel."

I wanted to retort back "I don’t want to hear that from you!" hearing that from Shannon, but I approached Poyopoyo instead to apologize.

But, Poyopoyo suddenly jumped up performed a forward somersault in the air to land in front of me and took her stance.

"I see, I understand now. As I thought this thing called mana is really mysterious. I didn’t think that a human body can be strengthened to that degree."

I looked at Poyopoyo who was making her stance once more in exasperation.

"No, I’m not going to do it anymore. You understand already from just now right?"

While I was thinking that Poyopoyo wasn’t as strong as she said, a fist approached before my eyes.

When I dodged it in panic, next my arm got caught while I was unbalanced and then I got thrown away.

"……Heh?"

When I noticed I was lying down on the lawn.

There was no pain. She eased up the instant I was thrown to the ground. She held back against me.

Poyopoyo let go of me and then she puffed out her large breasts to boast.

"How’s that. This is the true strength of this Poyopoyo."

Shannon ran towards Poyopoyo happily.

"That was amazing just now! Teach me too! I’ll beat up this guy after that!"

I couldn’t accept it and stood up. Then I demanded a rematch from Poyopoyo.

"O, one more time!"

Poyopoyo took her stance.

"I don’t mind. But, I don’t think that the chicken dickwad right now will be able to defeat me."

When I punched at the grinning Poyopoyo, my fist got deflected this time.

When I lunged with more punches, they were also deflected and I was made to fall.

Voices of admiration came from inside the Jewel.

[This is surprising. I thought she could only make a stance, but her movement is also good. It reminds me of mothers.]

The Fifth was also agreeing with the Sixth.

[This girl, she intentionally jumped back when she was punched at the beginning.]

When I stood up and took my stance, Poyopoyo looked straight at me.

"Chicken dickwad’s physical ability can be summarized as astonishing, but that’s all it really is. Other than that it feels like you are a talented amateur."

Shannon was cheering for Poyopoyo.

"Do it! Beat up that amateur!"

This time I tried grabbing at Poyopoyo and punched her flying, but I got thrown instead.

"No, no way."

Poyopoyo who was making a triumphant face brushed up one of her twintails and spoke.

"That’s why I told you. I’m strong. Even like this I have the data that was the accumulation of many months and years inputted into me after all."

While I was feeling shocked at losing against this kind of broken machine, the Third was going as far as making applause inside the Jewel in admiration.

[This is surpassing my imagination. There isn’t that many opponents who are able to handle Lyle to this degree.]

I stood up.

"I, I swear I’ll absolutely win against you!"

Then Poyopoyo made a pose.

"I will take you on anytime. But, this Poyopoyo’s job is to look after chicken dickwad. If you want to win against me, then allow me to support you with my all!"

Just what did she mean by that?

Shannon and I tilted our heads in puzzlement.

"Hey, isn’t that strange? Even though this gigolo bastard wants to win against you, you will help him with that? This guy, just how pathetic of a gigolo bastard is he?"

Shannon made a nonchalant face when I glared at her.

She was undoubtedly laughing at me who completely lost against Poyopoyo.

"Gigolo bastard……that is wonderful. I love a no good master. Putting that aside, if you want to win against me then you must simply learn from me."

I didn’t want to do that, and then I bluntly said from my rivalry against Shannon.

"I don’t want to. We’re in Arumsaas. I’ll learn martial arts from some dojo somewhere and defeat you. I don’t need any of your help!"

Then tears slowly gathered in Poyopoyo’s eyes.

She made a really sad face and covered her face with both hands and sat down on the spot.

She then immediately started bawling with a loud voice that could be heard by the surroundings.

"Chicken dickwad said that he won’t receive my help! How cruel! Even though I want to devout myself to him! Even though I want to devote myself to chicken dickwad until he becomes no good without me!"

What did she mean by devoting herself to me until I turned no good?

Or rather, she was too noisy right from the morning that the neighbors were looking over here.

"O, oi, stop it. Everyone is looking here."

Poyopoyo continued crying.

"I’m the one who can serve chicken dickwad the best in the world. And yet, he is going to ask other people to take care of him……that’s horrible!"

Shannon was also flustered.

"Just let her serve you already. She is a bit pitiful."

Poyopoyo was sending glances at me.

The Seventh was surprised.

[Thi, this thing is making crocodile tears. She can even do something like that?]

The ancient people who created this pointlessly high spec automaton made me irritated.

Around us the residents of the neighborhood gathered and gossiped in whispers while looking at us.

"I'll serve you properly everyday so please forgive me. Please don't throw me away~"

I wanted to complain to Poyopoyo who was sometimes sending glances at me, but my reputation in this neighborhood would worsen if I did something like that.

"I, I get it. Anyway stop crying first."

Then Poyopoyo suddenly smiled and stood up.

Shannon was shocked.

"Wait! So you were faking your crying!"

Poyopoyo stared down at Shannon looking apathetic from the bottom of her heart.

"What about it? I'm fine with anything as long as chicken dickwad will recognize me. Everything else exists just to be used."

I was relieved and relaxed the tension out of my shoulders seeing that the neighbors left.

"You're the worst."

Poyopoyo said.

"I will do anything if it's for chicken dickwad's sake."

I was getting cold sweat since the morning.

When I wiped it with my hand, Novem exited from the house and called out to us.

"Lyle-sama, Shannon-chan, the breakfast is prepared."

We replied and returned inside the house.

Poyopoyo looked happy.

"We'll immediately start the training from tomorrow then. This Poyopoyo will train you with everything I've got."

Shannon earnestly requested to Poyopoyo.

"Teach me too! Teach it to me too!"

Poyopoyo was grinning while replying to her.

"Ee~, what should I do? I am~, chicken dickwad's exclusive maid after all~"

"It should be okay. Teach me!"

Shannon pulled at Poyopoyo's clothes.

Rather than looking displeased, Poyopoyo looked like she was having fun teasing Shannon like that.

I sighed.

"……I never thought that I'd lose against Poyopoyo."

I was consoled by the Fifth.

[On the contrary isn't this great? If you can have Poyopoyo teach you various things, then you won't need to enroll anywhere in Arumsaas.]

Certainly it would save money, but I wanted to learn various things in Arumsaas and become first class as an adventurer.

"I still haven’t learned anything since coming here."

Even though we finally came to Arumsaas, wouldn’t it be fine for me to learn something from somewhere? I was thinking that while sitting in front of the table for breakfast.

.

—Sophia was drying the laundry while sighing.

Recently their failure in the dungeon was dragging out, but right now she was worrying about her quarrel with Aria.

(I did it again.)

If it was before she would be able to apologize afterwards, but recently she was unable to apologize no matter what.

She didn’t like herself who was like that and became needlessly frustrated.

(I have to do something.)

In her own way Sophia wanted to improve this situation.

However, Sophia fundamentally was a passive human who would do what she was told by someone else.

She became Lyle’s comrade as an adventurer to repay her debt to him was also simply because her house taught her that "a debt has to be repaid".

She was a type who would do what she was told diligently, but there were few times where she acted by her own initiative.

She would think hard about various things, but she was unable to form a conclusion by herself.

When she raised her face, she narrowed her eyes from the summer’s sunlight.

(It seems the laundry will dry nicely today.)

Sophia could hear a voice after that.

When she arrived at the garden, Lyle, Poyopoyo, and then Shannon were there.

Poyopoyo who was standing in front of Lyle and Shannon suddenly raised both her hands, then next she lifted up one foot. It was like she was imitating wings with her hands and moved them as though flapping wings.

"Then, first let me teach both of you from the secret technique. This is the secret technique of my martial art! Its name is also The Stance of Raging Sparrow!"

Sophia felt shocked seeing Poyopoyo’s stance. Not in a good sense, but in a bad sense.

(Eh? Spa, sparrow? That sounds weak. Besides that’s a strange pose. It’s full of openings.)

Frankly speaking it only looked like Poyopoyo was screwing around. The stance could only be said as a joke to be called a stance of martial arts.

If an enemy making that kind of pose appeared before her……she would only think of it as stupid. That was what Sophia thought.

Both Lyle and Shannon were also staring doubtfully at such Poyopoyo.

"You, that’s absolutely a lie. That’s not the secret technique right?"

"Even if you can trick this gigolo bastard, you won’t be able to trick me."

Poyopoyo released her stance and shook her head as though to say ‘good grief’.

"This is why amateurs are no good. Certainly this stance doesn’t have any meaning."

Sophia was surprised.

(It doesn’t have any meaning!? Isn’t that useless then?)

She was hiding behind the house’s wall to observe what the three were doing. Then Poyopoyo’s face turned serious. She placed her hand on her waist.

"This stance doesn’t have any effect or meaning. But, the two of you will learn my techniques, and then when you make them your own……you will complete the secret technique which is the deepest level of this martial art. It will become the secret technique of only chicken dickwad and Shannon. The one and only secret technique of your own."

Poyopoyo said something that was seemingly authentic, but Sophia thought.

(Is that what a secret technique is? In the first place, isn’t she just saying that there is no answer so search for it yourself?)

Sophia was doubtful, but Lyle and Shannon were taking the stance together.]

"The Stance of Raging Sparrow!"

"Sparrow!"

They imitated the secret technique’s stance gleefully.

They looked stupider than expected.

But, Lyle was really happy.

"Amazing. In other words, after I learn everything a secret technique only for me will be completed!?"

Shannon was burning with rivalry against Lyle.

"I’ll complete it faster than you! And then I’ll beat you up using my secret technique!"

Lyle and Shannon silently faced each other, and then they immediately took the Stance of Raging Sparrow.

Poyopoyo who was watching that folded her arms and nodded but……to Sophia she looked like she was holding back her laughter.

"Ye, yes, that’s right. Pukuku……Sparrow is a small and weak bird, but it also has the meaning that the two of you who are in training will be able to become a falcon or an eagle one day. This secret technique is something like that. Pufufuh!"

She was already snorting.

She was watching Lyle and Shannon while holding her stomach.

"I like griffon better than hawk."

"E, err……then I’m a dragon!"

"You’re cheating! Dragon isn’t a bird."

"I’m not obsessed with such small things. You just watch from over there while sucking your finger."

The two who were starting to quarrel because of a small thing pulled at each other’s cheeks.

They looked like small children squabbling.

(Both of them really get along.)

It looked like Lyle was seriously arguing with the younger Shannon.

Sophia felt a prickling pain in her chest seeing his lively figure that was different from usual.

(Is my presence here a bother just as I thought? I’m not even useful, and I only keep making trouble……)

A voice came from behind Sophia who was feeling down watching the two.

"Oh, it’s a bad hobby to peep you know?"

Sophia turned around and saw a smiling Miranda. She made an excuse in panic.

"No, that! I, I’m not peeping."

Miranda also turned her gaze to the three in the garden.

The sight of Lyle and Shannon squabbling, while Poyopoyo was watching and laughing.

"They look like they’re having fun. I’ve been thinking it since before but, Lyle’s mental age might be low. Shannon’s mental age is also low but, perhaps the two of them are about at the same level?"

Sophia objected to that impression of Miranda.

"Tha, that’s not true! Lyle-dono is strong……sometimes he is unreliable but, even so he is someone who will do what has to be done when it’s time."

Miranda brushed up her hair.

"Hee, I see. But, I also like the current Lyle. Because he is cute like that."

Sophia made a puzzled face.

"Cu, cute?"

Miranda asserted.

"It’s cute. He is seriously squabbling with Shannon like that, ignorant of society which left him with many openings, and he also failed a lot. I like that."

Sophia felt down hearing Miranda asserting so.

She was unable to say those kinds of words.

"……As I thought, perhaps Lyle-dono is more suited for someone like Novem-san or Miranda-san."

Then Miranda laughed as though she was making fun of Sophia.

"And? Do you want to be sympathized? Then it’s unfortunate. I won’t console you like Novem, and I also have no intention to lose against someone who won’t make an effort by herself. I’m working hard in order to be liked. But, you don’t even do that. You behave ambiguously and don’t even tell him that you like him. ……Don’t compare us."

Sophia looked down and clenched her fists.

"I, I just, want to repay my debt"

She was here in order to repay her debt. Liking Lyle was unrelated. When she was going to say that it was unrelated, Miranda’s gaze turned harsh.

"That’s just your own convenience. Lyle doesn’t care about it, and even if you leave from here he won’t chase after you. It only looks like you’re just tacking on some nice excuse to cling to him."

Sophia was shocked.

No, she understood. She was always thinking that she wasn’t useful.

(As I thought……it’ll be better if I leave.)

Miranda seemed to see through Sophia’s thinking and continued.

"Your face is saying that you won’t be a bother if you leave. You, do you understand what kind of time it is? Our party wants to aim for floor 30 of the underground dungeon. Think how difficult it would be for a party that is lacking in both quality and quantity to conquer the dungeon. It’ll be irresponsible to leave the party at that kind of time because of a love affair."

The criticized Sophia raised her face.

Anger could be seen in her expression.

"Then……then, what should I do!? Won’t it be fine if you just tell me that you want me to get out!"

Miranda didn’t change her expression in front of Sophia who raised her voice roughly.

"Think about it yourself. You, if I’m ordering it will you happily do anything? What a comfortable life."

Sophia couldn’t talk back at Miranda’s words and gritted her teeth at that place—.

.

I who was taking the Stance of Raging Sparrow, heard Sophia-san’s voice and looked back.

"Wha, what?"

I got a really bad premonition. Shannon who was making a similar stance beside me was shaking while looking at me.

It seemed this stance was demanding for Shannon who usually never moved her body.

"Lo, looks like you’re at your limit already. Put down your foot on the ground already. It’s alright to not force yourself."

We were standing on one foot. Shannon suggested a match rule that the one lowering down their foot would be the loser.

"I’m alright. Or rather, looks like you’re the one who can’t continue making the stance anymore there."

Shannon was only managing to stand on one foot somehow while staggering. Poyopoyo pointed out her problem to her.

"It’s a simple lack of exercise. Very well, this Poyopoyo will train you."

I was more concerned with Sophia-san rather than Shannon.

"More importantly, I’m concerned with Sophia-san though? You know, there was her voice just now."

Then the Sixth warned me with a tense voice.

[Lyle……you didn’t hear anything. You understand, you didn’t hear anything at all.]

What was he saying?

I heard the voice, and if there was some kind of problem then I should call out to her.

"I could also hear Miranda-san’s voice, so perhaps something happened with the two of them?"

Shannon was trembling while standing on one foot, but she averted her gaze from me.

"……I, didn’t hear anything."

"No, you heard it right?"

When I released the stance and took a step toward Sophia-san’s direction, the Fifth spoke admonishingly at me.

[Lyle, I won’t stop you from going there if you’re able to say the sensible thing. But, it’s impossible for you right now. Just stay here.]

Leaving her alone?

I couldn’t do something like that.

"I’ll check it out for a bit."

Then Poyopoyo cut off my path.

"Chicken dickwad, we’re still in the middle of training. To try to escape like this, have a sense of shame."

"You too should also have a sense of shame. Just why are you getting in my way?"

I put my foot on the ground, so Shannon also released her stance. She lifted both her hands and rejoiced in her victory against me, but she was sweaty and breathing roughly.

"I, I win. I win against the gigolo bastard!"

"Don’t call me gigolo bastard! Or rather, just why won’t you let me go?"

Poyopoyo thought for a bit.

"……I think, something like that is still too early for chicken dickwad."

When I was getting irritated at Poyopoyo who was giving an answer that I couldn’t accept, I heard the sound of a door opening. It seemed the two returned into the house.

"Really, just what’s with that."

The ancestors were consoling me when I was about to speak my dissatisfaction.

It was eerie that they were kinder than usual.

[It’s better to not learn about something like this yet.]

[Sometimes reality is cruel.]

[Well, all of us had seen ugly disputes in the past.]

[It’s okay. It’s okay for you to not know about it yet.]

[The time to know will come one day, but with how you are right now whether you will be able to endure it or not……]

[Lyle, one day you will surely learn it. But, until that time comes. Until that time comes!]

……I didn’t understand.

"Now, let’s resume the ascetic training! I’ll prepare a hard course for chicken dickwad, and easy course for Shannon."

Special training, ascetic training……it was suspicious how the way she called it kept changing but, there was also some part of Poyopoyo's instruction that made sense.

This stance of sparrow thing made the scale fall from my eyes.

A secret technique that was only mine……it made me a bit excited.

Chapter 57 – Harem Party

—Shannon was getting muscular pains in her whole body.

Anyway it hurt. The place she was heading to while enduring the pain was the room of her big sister Miranda.

She knocked on the door and a reply came back, so she entered inside. There Miranda was lining up some kind of tools on the table.

Smashed magic stones. Objects that looked like clay. Powdered things that were divided into small plates.

Even Shannon understood that those things contained mana inside, but she didn't understand the details.

Miranda was mixing them carefully. She was a bit curt towards Shannon.

"What? I don't want to be bothered right now though."

Cold.

Before this Miranda would always smile at her no matter what, but recently it was different.

But, she had to ask.

"Does Onee-sama want to drive out the other women?"

This morning, Shannon heard Miranda's argument with Sophia.

Lyle didn't notice, but she thought that Poyopoyo noticed.

Miranda continued her work.

"Driving them out? That's not it. I just want to make it clear."

Miranda continued talking without looking at Shannon.

"I hate the attitude of not making it clear. A part of it is because I hate Novem who is trying to shape their relationships gradually but, if they don't even like Lyle then it's not like they need to stay at his side."

When Miranda said that certainly it made her want to agree, but Shannon could read a human's emotions with her eyes.

She read her big sister's irritation and complicated feelings, but because it wasn't a simple thing she didn't understand what she was thinking.

"Bu, but, both Aria and Sophia look happy when they are near Lyle……"

The two of them simply didn't show it through their attitude, but even Shannon could understand that they were trying to stay at Lyle's side.

She wondered if that was how much Miranda wanted to chase out the other women to obtain Lyle. She pitied them slightly.

"Lyle isn't really perceptive, and yet even though those girls know that they don't convey their feelings to him. That's problematic. They're pawns that got domesticated by Novem."

Shannon looked down.

(Onee-sama is cold. As I thought it's that gigolo bastard's fault.)

"Onee-sama, please return to being the kind Onee-sama like before. Onee-sama right now……is scary."

When Shannon spoke her true feeling, Miranda stopped her working hands and turned around.

Her face was smiling.

The light of the work table was turned on. The backlighting shadowed Miranda’s face, making her smile look scary.

Shannon took a step back.

"Shannon, what are you misunderstanding about? I’m kind you know?"

A pressure to force an agreement from Shannon could be felt from Miranda’s smiling face.

Shannon quietly nodded several times.

Even though she didn’t think of her as kind inside her heart—

.

The library in Arumsaas.

I showed my face there and visited Clara-san who was going there so frequently she was called the library’s master.

She was an adventurer who was living in Arumsaas.

She was a support specialist, but she was far more knowledgeable about Arumsaas than us.

We drank tea at the library’s break room while facing each other with a small round table between us.

"If I speak from the conclusion, there is no easy method to conquer the dungeon."

My shoulders dropped.

"That’s, right isn’t it."

The topic of my consultation was of course about [conquering the underground dungeon in the state where using the Arts was forbidden].

Clara-san knew about our circumstances so she was suited to becoming my consulting partner.

Recently there was this stiff atmosphere between the party members. I didn't like it and ended up going out a lot. Because of that, the number of times I consulted with Clara-san who was an acquaintance increased.

Clara-san took off her glasses and wiped the lenses.

"Lyle-san and others are excellent as adventurers. But, there are too many things you are lacking in order to conquer floor B30. If you force yourself in your state of being forbidden to use the convenient Arts, you will lose your life."

"Are we that terrible? No, certainly we were overly reliant on the Arts though."

The reason why the ancestors forbid me to use the Arts, could it be because they thought of us as lacking in actual strength?

They wouldn't teach me the reason even if I asked them.

Regarding the task, they didn't butt in at all with it unlike before so it made me anxious instead.

They were hiding something.

"I think that everyone is skilled. But, it's because the number of your party members is simply too few. Miranda-san has joined in, but I don't think that your party will be able to progress inside the dungeon with just that. Or rather, how does Lyle-san evaluate the strength of everyone?"

In response to Clara-san’s question, I felt a bit embarrassed but I started speaking about my comrades.

"……Novem is amazing as a magician. Perhaps she is even better than me. Aria-san is strong, and she can also use an Art. Sophia-san is also strong with how she swings around that large axe. Miranda-san is……how should I say it, she is an all-rounder?"

It was the Second who was dumbfounded with my evaluation.

[You called that evaluation? As expected those girls are pitiful if you’re like that.]

The Fourth was also exasperated.

[There is more that you should notice from them.]

Clara-san also looked at me and sighed slightly.

"You should evaluate your comrades more properly. You’re the leader. There will also be times when people die because of your orders. Well, in Lyle-san’s case, it will be a route of you losing your own life before your comrades getting subsequently annihilated."

When I was going to say that such thing wouldn’t happen, Clara-san put on her glasses.

"Lyle-san fundamentally can do anything by yourself. Anything. Because of that, if Lyle-san is gone then the party won’t be able to function."

When I fell silent, Clara-san taught me the correct way of conquering the dungeon.

"If you’re aiming for floor B30, it will be possible if you gather around 50 people to conquer the dungeon."

"Fifty? That many?"

"It’s not like you need to make all of them into party members. If there are no people then you can borrow them from other places. That’s the method in Arumsaas. Besides, there are also freelance adventurers."

However, not all of them could be trusted. Clara-san warned.

"Everyone polishing their cooperation, increasing the number of people……well, if there are two or three years, then I believe that you will surely manage to conquer floor B30."

It seemed that it would take three years in Clara-san’s estimation.

"I, it’ll take three years?"

"That’s the norm. Please understand that from the perspective of other common adventurers, Lyle-san’s perception is the strange one."

However, here I had a thought.

Would it be alright to recruit more party members when even the current members were in friction against each other?

Wouldn’t the atmosphere become even worse?

If possible, I didn’t want to invite even more trouble than now.

"Ca, can’t the number of people be narrowed down further? You know, like challenging with elite few or something."

Clara-san thought for a bit about my idea before answering.

"That’s also one answer. Decreasing the number of people means that the burden on each one will increase so, if each one trained……the number can be decreased to around thirty people."

Even so I would still need thirty people it seemed.

"I think that everyone will be able to become first class adventurers in five years."

"Fi, five years!?"

If we took that much time, I got the feeling that we would be overtaken by Rondo-san's group who we knew from Dalien.

As expected five years was…….

"Regarding the supporters, you will be able to decrease the number if you use tools. Perhaps it will be different if you can use puppets like Professor Damien though."

"That's it!"

I stood up from the chair and grasped Clara-san's hand.

Clara-san's left hand was prosthetic. My hands wrapped up the metallic rugged hand and the small hand into a grasp.

"Thank you very much, Clara-san!"

Clara-san's glasses shifted slightly. Her face that was lacking in expression was becoming slightly red.

"Eh, that……I, I'm troubled. Please let go."

Clara-san tried to take away her hands.

I let go.

If it was professor Damian Valle who was my acquaintance in the Academy, then he might know some good way.

"I'll come to consult you again!"

Clara-san cautioned me.

"Ple, please be quiet in the library!"

Her voice was feeble and really flustered. Clara-san’s loudest voice wasn’t that loud.

I waved my hand with a smile and then left the library.

.

Arumsaas’s Academy.

The Academy’s problem child Damian Valle, who was called one of the Seven Best behind his back.

He had an alias “Puppet User”. Just like that name suggested, he was able to control multiple puppets at the same time.

Certainly a magic that could do the work of several people alone was convenient, but no one except Damian could use the magic skillfully.

Even if ordinary people had some talent, controlling a puppet was difficult. Concentration was needed just to control one puppet.

He taught me that magic before this. I visited Professor Damian’s laboratory in order to consult whether this could be used somehow but…….

"Hics. Hics……I, I. I absolutely won’t give up."

When I entered the lab, the small Damian was sitting on a chair while hugging his knees.

Damian was sobbing. His appearance was cleaner than before. But, his messy hair was still like before. He took off his glasses and wiped his eyes with his sleeve.

Diagonally behind such Damian was an automaton who was similar to Poyopoyo standing with a straight posture.

Perhaps it was only my imagination but her face looked glossy.

Her difference from Poyopoyo was her long silky black hair and the subdued deep blue maid uniform she was wearing.

This one felt like an orthodox maid. Her self-assertion also seemed to be lower than our Poyopoyo.

"O, oi, are you alright?"

When I called out worriedly, the automaton opened her mouth.

She instantly answered with a really nice smile.

"It’s alright. Goshujin-sama only became slightly more adult."

The Sixth inside the Jewel muttered with a sympathetic voice.

[……So he was finally eaten.]

Damian turned his face towards me.

His eyes that were red from crying were painful to look at.

"I’m fine. I’m still fine. I was naïve. The ancient people were even more perverted than me. But, I absolutely won’t lose!"

He seemed to resolve himself about something, so for now I cheered him on.

"I see. I don’t really get it but do your best. Setting that aside, actually I’ve something to consult with you."

When I brought up the topic, the automaton started moving and prepared tea.

The laboratory that previously was so cluttered was now tidy and cleanly kept in order. Surely the automaton was the one cleaning it.

Damian and I had gotten really open with each other after I visited here several times.

I drank the prepared tea while consulting whether puppets could be used in order to solve the lack of people.

Damian’s answer was—

"Yeah, it’s impossible."

—Instant rejection.

"You don’t need to say it that bluntly like that."

"It’s not that. I have a rare special talent. I’m able to think about multiple things at the same time. It’s not that I’m thinking about various things together, I’m able to divide my thought into several and think of them separately at the same time. Other people can’t comprehend it though."

The Seventh muttered.

[……Parallel thought huh. I too have heard about it, but I didn’t think it actually existed.]

I spoke out the Seventh’s muttering.

"Parallel thought?"

"Oh, you’re knowledgeable. That’s it. A normal thought. A thought about my research. A thought about controlling puppet. Even now I’m thinking several thoughts about my research at the same time. That’s why I know. Concentration is needed for puppet control. You might be able to move two at the same time if you get used to it. But if Lyle controls puppets, you yourself won’t be able to do anything during that time. That’ll be meaningless."

My shoulders dropped.

"So it’s no good."

"I think that if you get used to it you can move one puppet while moving your own body but……it will be faster to increase the number of your party members."

He said it like it was easy, but it was difficult to add a member into the party.

The ability of the person played a part, but what was important was their personality.

Besides……if possible I wanted to refrain from adding more girls.

Novem took the initiative to add more girls into the party, but I would be fine with a more normal party.

"I want to increase our number but, I have to consider their personality and ability too."

Damian didn’t seem to understand.

"I think that compromise is also necessary for the sake of accomplishing your objective though. I don’t understand the meaning of you limiting the use of your Arts until that far."

"No, it’s for the future or something……"

It wasn’t forbidden because of my own will. Because of that my reply became vague.

"Then it’s all the more important. If you’re thinking about the future, you can just polish the effective method you were doing until now. You can prepare a group that can function if there is you, and if you become unable to move the group can just stay put while protecting you. That way is efficient."

I considered it.

Certainly, it would be efficient like that.

In case I became unable to move, the party could just focus on defending at that spot. In case I died……let’s stop. I didn’t really want to think about it.

"The methods differed too much when you can use Arts and when you can’t, that’s really troubling."

I folded my arms and pondered Damian’s words, but then the automaton spoke out.

"Can I interrupt for a bit?"

"Yes?"

"I wish that you won’t stay for long and steal my alone time with Goshujin-sama, so I’ll say it simply."

The Third was slightly appalled.

[Eh, what? Don’t tell me, this girl is telling a guest that he is a bother so go home? Is that how a maid should act?]

I was also surprised by the automaton’s action, but she just continued talking.

"Won’t it be better if you consult about this matter with that piece of junk? Even that thing is more or less an automaton, so she will be able to offer some solution."

I’d pretend to not hear the thorn that was included in her words towards Poyopoyo this time, but would there be any use in consulting her?

"Consulting Poyopoyo huh……"

Then the automaton started laughing.

"Po, Poyopoyo? That is really a suitable name for her. The nonexistent naming sense is also wonderful."

……Was she making fun of me?

While I was thinking that, Damian was putting a ton of sugar into his drink while lifting his face.

"Poyopoyo? You gave a name to that automaton? Fumu……it's a good name that's easy to remember."

The Fourth was shocked.

[There is also a guy who doesn't have a naming sense here.]

I never thought that my opinion would match with Damian.

"That's right! It's good isn't it!?"

"Perhaps I should name this automaton too."

Then the automaton who was making fun of me until just now faced Damian and smiled.

"What a wonderful naming sense. What kind of name will Goshujin-sama present to me?"

Damian thought for a bit.

"Simple is best so let's use Lily."

The automaton Lily made a guts pose in a position that Damian couldn't see. Perhaps she thought that it was still better than Poyopoyo.

The Fifth laughed slightly.

[That's certainly simple but, it's better than Poyopoyo.]

……Was it really that terrible?

.

I dropped my shoulders and walked towards the adventurer guild located near the outer wall.

I didn’t have any good idea.

I felt gloomy when thinking that I had to aim for floor B30 with a party that was in friction like this.

"I thought it was possible though."

Securing a workforce by using puppets as a replacement for people.

If I did that, there wouldn’t be any problem even with few members. That was my thought but…….

"As expected, is there no other way than to diligently recruit people—eh?"

I brought my feet until the guild while thinking that there was no other way than the steady method of increasing the number of people and conquering the dungeon with a frontal attack. The reason I went here was in order to search for capable people.

I sometimes showed my face here to look for people that might catch my eye.

Then, I discovered an unfamiliar and conspicuous group.

I focused my ear at the talk of the group that was showing interest at the poster placed at the entrance.

There was one reason I thought the group was unusual.

"We finally arrived at Arumsaas. It’ll be great if we can find a new comrade here."

A handsome young man with blond hair and blue eyes was talking with a smile to his comrades in front of the adventurer guild.

His comrades were three people. One of them was a woman dressed like a frontline warrior.

"Yeah. For me it will be nice if it’s someone who can be at the front more."

Another person was a girl wearing attire with little exposure and holding a staff.

She was wearing a hat and covered her mouth with her hand. The guild was near the outer wall. A lot of horse carts and people were coming and going, causing dust to fly around.

"Rather than that let’s quickly move. This place is really dirty."

A small and energetic girl had a short sword on her waist and dressed in an easy to move outfit.

"You’re right. I want to relax today. I’ll be fine even if I’m in the same room as Nurx."

The young man who was called Nurx turned a smile to her and answered.

"There’ll be a misunderstanding if you say something like you’re fine staying in the same room with a man. Now then, let’s quickly search for an inn. It will be great if we can quickly challenge the underground dungeon though."

Their state that still wasn’t used to Arumsaas was the same like me.

Yes, he—Nurx-san was, a leader of a harem party.

"……I, found it."

Party members centered around Nurx-san who were all smiles.

This was exactly the ideal party that I was looking for.

There was no friction, and no one declared of being number one.

A party with a good atmosphere and everyone getting along well was there.

The Fourth was showing a complicated reaction. Even so he was evaluating Nurx-san who was bringing the party together better than me.

[They seem to be the same harem party like Lyle, but it seems he has more success than Lyle. Is there some kind of secret to it?]

The Sixth was watching enviously.

[I also want to know if there is a secret to it. If only I knew such thing while I was alive, I wouldn't make any failure.]

The Sixth was someone whose marriage was a failure.

He was raised watching his father the Fifth who had four other concubines other than the main wife. It seemed he thought that such a thing was normal for a noble.

Because of that, after he married he immediately brought back two other women to the mansion……his wife was enraged then.

From there he went through a very harsh married life.

……He reaped what he sowed.

I approached Nurx-san who impressed the Fourth and the Sixth.

"E, excuse me!"

Nurx-san was slightly on his guard against me who he met for the first time. Even so he responded to me kindly.

"Do you have some business with me?"

The other three women were obviously wary. They took position to protect Nurx-san. From that I could surmise the height of this party's proficiency.

"Please teach me—the trick to manage a harem party!"

I bowed my head. In response Nurx-san was unable to find any words.

"……Eh?"

.

Inside a restaurant that was a slight distance away from the adventurer guild.

I was having a meal together with Nurx-san's party.

I told them I'd pay the bill, but Nurx-san said "I can't accept that" and suggested to split the cost.

Towards such a kind person, I vaguely talked about the present situation of my party.

It was because the ancestors inside the Jewel warned me that I must not tell him everything.

Nurx-san put his elbows on the table and folded his hands in front of his mouth while listening to my story.

"I understand. In other words, you are also the only male member in your party while everyone else is woman isn't it? Then, it's simple."

"Really!?"

Until now I had no one who I could consult with regarding woman problems. The ancestors were also useless for this kind of problem. But, Nurx-san was different. He was a really reliable person.

When I looked more carefully at him, he looked radiant.

"A harem party just like me huh. Well, it’s easy for other people to misunderstand when I’m the only man while the others are women, but my relationship with them isn’t like that."

"Is that so?"

When I turned my gaze to the three women, the three of them nodded, but their expression was vaguely showing conflicted emotion that couldn’t really accept it.

"For men, this kind of party is the ideal in a sense, so many people are jealous. Honestly it’s to the degree that I was happy when you called out to me."

I was moved to tears when thinking that even a kind person like this was having it hard.

I also understood that hardship.

"I don’t know if my solution will work for you but, I think this is the only thing that I can tell you. Treat everyone importantly. This is my belief as a leader."

Nurx-san made a serious expression.

"What is essential for a leader will change depending on the situation. Strength, decisiveness, ability to manage the party, there are various answers depending on the person, but I want to treasure everyone. They’re my precious comrades after all."

Nurx-san said that and made a smile. He really looked dazzling.

His three female comrades were also blushing seeing such Nurx-san.

The Fifth was mumbling complaints.

[There is no romantic feelings, he said? Those three are obviously in love with this guy. In the first place, how are you going to treasure everyone huh? There won't be any hardship at all if that kind of thing is possible.]

Please stay quiet.

"Say, you said about treasuring everyone, how should I do that?"

Nurx-san thought for a bit.

"How about you declare that you want to get along with everyone for now? I think that Lyle-kun is a bit too reserved. It's fine, surely everyone will understand."

"Getting along with everyone……"

The time when we just arrived at Arumsaas.

If I'd be able to return to that time, then I thought it would be worth it to give it a try.

"Nurx-san, thank you very much! I'll do that!"

I said that and left.

Nurx-san's party waved their hands and saw me off.

That's right, first it would be fine if I conveyed my feelings to everyone.

I wanted everyone to get along.

I got the feeling that it would succeed somehow.

I was overflowing with motivation. In contrast the inside of the Jewel was quiet.

Even though it would be great if they were always quiet like this.

.

When I returned home, I had a talk with everyone after the dinner.

However, the table where after meal tea was prepared was filled with an atmosphere that was heavier than usual.

It even felt like it was hard to breathe. Cold sweat trickled down my cheek.

I wiped it with the back of my hand and swallowed my saliva.

The inside of the Jewel was noisy.

[Wha, what's this atmosphere?]

[It's because Lyle said that he has an important talk.]

[I, I want to run away.]

[The atmosphere keeps worsening day by day. But it's still better than a certain someone I think?]

[Who do you mean by a certain someone?]

[Obviously he meant the Sixth.]

I moistened the inside of my mouth with my drink.

It's fine. Nurx-san's party was going smoothly.

Even I could do it……perhaps!

"I want……to get along well with everyone. Not just me, I want everyone each to aim to become a harmonious party. I believe that the current situation isn't good!"

I said it! I've said it!

I turned my gaze at everyone's face.

Novem made a troubled smile.

"If that's what Lyle-sama wishes for, then I have no objection. Besides, I also wish to get along with everyone."

As I thought Novem was kind. She understood.

But, I wished that she would stop recommending woman to me from now on.

Next I looked at Aria-san's face.

She was putting her elbow on the table and drinking tea.

She wouldn't look at my face.

"……There's no need, everything is like usual."

That's wrong isn't it! Before there were more smiles, and meals were also fun!

When I turned my gaze to Sophia-san looking for help, she was sitting with her back straight and her eyes closed. Her hands were placed on her lap.

"To start with it should be made clear who is the cause first."

Sophia-san opened her eyes and moved it towards Miranda-san. Miranda-san was grinning while objecting.

"Ee~, I don’t really understand what you mean. Because, I love Lyle. That’s why I want to become Lyle’s number one. I only said that. What’s bad about it?"

The Second’s voice was slightly shaking.

[I can’t believe that this girl who give off the air of a really formidable adversary is related to our family. We were originally a house of a small feudal lord in a pioneering village you know?]

In the Second’s era, the Walt House was still nothing more than a countryside feudal lord with a small territory.

Certainly, it must be unimaginable that a young lady from a Viscount house would be a relative of such a house.

Aria-san stood up from her chair.

"Eh, wait a second"

I reached out with my hand, but Aria-san walked to exit the room silently.

Miranda-san folded her arms and provoked.

"It’s not like Aria to run away. It won’t be exciting if you aren’t more spirited."

Aria-san turned around and said,

"It’s not my……you can just do as you like. It’s irrelevant to me. I’m……just something bought by Lyle."

The process of how Aria-san joined us was a bit peculiar.

It ended up with me purchasing Aria-san, but I didn’t think anything about it.

"No, I don’t really think anything about that matter."

Aria-san strongly clenched her fist.

"Then there’s no problem. I’m returning to my room now."

Sophia-san also stood up.

"I’m going back too. I don’t have any intention to worsen the atmosphere from my end. I’ll apologize if I caused the mood to be bad."

I saw off Sophia-san leaving. Poyopoyo entered my sight at that time.

"Chicken dickwad. Aren’t you going to ask an opinion from me. This Poyopoyo will even prepare an even more terrible scene of carnage if it’s for the sake of having chicken dickwad looking at me. Come on, please look at me more!"

"You just shut up!"

I made the automaton with strong self-assertion to shut up and looked at the remaining members at the table.

Shannon was hiding her mouth looking at me being troubled.

This girl……she was laughing.

I could see that this girl’s eyes toward me were saying "Stu~pid".

Novem stood up.

"Lyle-sama, I will tidy up for now."

It seemed that today was Novem’s turn to clean up.

"Eh, ah……yes"

Then Miranda-san talked to me.

"Lyle, you want to get along with everyone?"

"Of course! I want the mood to be more enjoyable, getting along with each other will absolutely be more—"

The smiling Miranda-san was seeing through my heart.

"Hey, whose opinion is that? Somehow, I don't think that it's something that Lyle thought up yourself though? Even though you were only watching until now, what happened that you suddenly acted? Could it be……it's someone's advice?"

My consultation with Nurx-san was exposed? My cold sweat wouldn't stop.

The inside of the Jewel was in an uproar.

The Fourth was twitching nervously.

[Do, don't tell me it's possible this girl also has mystic eyes!]

The mystic eyes to read and control people's hearts.

It would be a disaster if Miranda-san possessed such thing.

The Seventh strongly denied it.

[No, as expected that's……ho, however, if it's aunt's great grandchild then perhaps]

My gaze swam around—

"……I'll go to the toilet."

—I ran away from there.

.

—Novem was washing the plates in the kitchen.

Poyopoyo followed behind when Lyle escaped.

Shannon was yawning. Miranda led her until her room.

When she was cleaning up by herself, Miranda came back to the kitchen.

"Oh, you're almost finished. It's also my turn today so I'll help."

They were living together under the same roof.

They took turns with the housework like this.

Novem was expressionless.

Her side ponytail was placed on her back and then her hands didn't stop washing the plates.

"……Why, are you doing this meaningless thing?"

Miranda was wiping the plates that had been washed with a cloth.

"Is it really meaningless? I only wish for those two to stand on the same position as us at the very least. I'm only disliking their attitude that won't show their feelings openly and wish for Lyle to notice it. If they can't do that then I want them to not be a hindrance. After all I seriously want to be Lyle's number one."

The party was greatly shaken with Miranda's proclamation of wanting to become Lyle's number one.

Novem had no intention to deny that thinking.

"I understand your feelings. But, I don't understand why you expressly spoke it out. It's troubling for Lyle-sama."

Miranda smiled while placing the dried eating utensils in their place.

"I want to contribute to Lyle in a way that I thought as the best. You're also the same right?"

Novem affirmed it.

"Yes, that’s right. But, I don’t want to be compared with you."

After that the two didn’t open their mouths anymore until they finished cleaning up—

Chapter 58 – Lyle's Answer

—Aria was walking through a narrow alley of Arumsaas with a leaflet in one hand.

Her hand was holding a leaflet that had the sentence "Martial Arts Instruction, Experienced Person is Warmly Welcomed!" written on it.

(They'll welcome even those with experience. That means they're that confident. Besides, perhaps they actually have taught amazing people who don't come out openly.)

As the result of thinking about what was lacking from her, Aria reached the conclusion that she simply wasn't strong enough.

She thought that Lyle would rely on her if she was stronger.

After thinking about what she could do, she decided to become stronger.

Like that she arrived at a building that looked like a dojo.

Aria thought that the place was really quiet. She peeked at the situation inside from an open window.

It smelled of men. The smell of sweat. In addition the inside of the dirty dojo was filled with the smell of alcohol. The people there might be drinking from the morning. The dojo master with dirty appearance was sleeping with men who seemed to be the disciples. Their bodies didn't look trained at all.

(……What's this?)

While Aria was hesitating to enter the dojo, a woman with a big build came from behind her and opened the door. She then raised her voice loudly.

"This bunch of good-for-nothings! Pay up your bill at my bar already!"

The dojo master who was hit awake by the woman with a broom in her hand apologized in panic.

"Just wait for a bit more. I'll pay it for sure when I get more disciples. I'll pay it for sure!"

The woman clearly looked stronger. The dojo master was apologizing while bowing his head repeatedly.

(……A drunkard. In addition he has debts.)

Aria remembered her father who was drinking everyday while making debts in addition. Because of that her impression towards the dojo became the worst from the start.

(No way. This is just no. Let's go to another place.)

Thinking that there was no way she would join here, Aria slowly left the dojo.

When she was following the path she came from, she bumped with Sophia who was walking while looking for a location with her hand holding a leaflet.

"……Ah"

The two's voices overlapped. And then time passed for a while with the two of them saying nothing.

Both of them noticed that the other had the same leaflet with them. They averted their gaze and talked.

"So Aria also came here. I’m also looking for a dojo."

"Ye, yeah. But, it’s better to not go there. It’s not a good place, and it looks like they’ve debt."

When Aria said that, Sophia looked at the leaflet.

"I, I see. Well, it’s good to know that before I already went there."

With that awkward atmosphere, the two of them walked together from the alley towards the main street.

"So there are also terrible places among the dojos at Arumsaas."

Aria sighed. Sophia’s expression became really conflicted.

"It has been a while since we arrived here, but as expected we still don’t really know about this city so we don’t understand which place is good."

They had only spent around one month here since coming to Arumsaas.

They continued looking for a dojo that caught their attention even after that, but there was no result.

When they returned to the house after that, there was Lyle and co. doing something seriously in the garden. But, it only looked like they were playing around.

A plank was put above a ball. Then they stood on it while making various poses.

Poyopoyo was clapping her hands rhythmically and gave instruction to change the pose one after another.

"Yes, next is the stance of the sparrow!"

Poyopoyo was also standing on a plank that was placed on a ball. In a glance it looked like they were imitating circus performers.

Lyle who was changing his stance following Poyopoyo’s instruction looked composed, but beside him Shannon was trembling. She was getting cold feet and couldn’t make the same pose as Lyle.

Lyle who was watching Shannon like that with a sidelong glance made a triumphant face.

"Why are you shaking so much like that? Eh? Could it be you cannot even do something like this? You said that you absolutely won’t lose against me or something didn’t you?"

It was a smile that Lyle wouldn’t show towards Aria or Sophia.

It wasn’t like she wanted Lyle to show that kind of smile towards her, but right now Lyle was looking lively to Aria.

Shannon talked back.

"This guy’s annoying! I’ll tell Onee-sama later!"

"Telling Miranda-san is cowardly. Then, I’ll report to her that you were snitching snacks."

"……Wait. Let’s talk it out calmly. As expected I think it’s not good to tell on Onee-sama."

They looked like a close brother and sister to Aria.

(……They look like they’re having fun.)

But, it wasn’t amusing from Aria’s point of view.

Putting aside Shannon, it looked like Lyle was only playing around.

With how they themselves were worrying right now, seeing Lyle doing that right now felt aggravating.

Suddenly Sophia felt a presence and she turned around.

"……ah"

When Aria also turned around, she saw Miranda there.

It seemed she had just gone out to somewhere, but today she shouldn’t have any schedule of going to the Academy.

Miranda saw the two of them, and then her gaze moved towards Lyle.

"Oh, it looks like they are working hard today too. Shannon might get muscle pains and cannot move tomorrow from this."

Aria grumbled at the smiling Miranda.

"They’re so carefree even though we aren’t even earning anything decent right now. I think there are more important things to do than doing something like that."

Even though they finally came to Arumsaas, Lyle didn’t show any sign of joining any dojo or private school. Like this there wouldn’t be any meaning of them coming to this city. Her dissatisfaction towards Lyle slipped out from her mouth.

However, Miranda was looking at Lyle who was learning from Poyopoyo even while arguing with Shannon and smiled.

"They look like they’re having fun. Besides, it doesn’t look like what they’re doing is meaningless so it’s fine. They looked more serious compared to Aria who is only complaining."

"Ha, haa!?"

Sophia was making a complicated face at Miranda’s words and only watched.

Aria talked back with a strong tone.

"What’s serious from that!? Recently we only continued to fail and cannot make any decent earnings, in addition he’s only playing around doing something like that."

It looked like they were playing around because even she could do what they were doing.

Aria had the confidence that she would be able to do the same with ease.

That was also a proof of how skilled Aria was, but Miranda slightly smiled as though making fun of her.

"Wha, what?"

"I’m just thinking how nice it is to have it easy only making fun of other people even though you aren’t doing anything yourself."

Aria felt the blood inside her body was boiling. The beating of her heart was quickening and she felt angry towards Miranda’s words.

"I’m just saying the truth. We came here to learn."

Sophia stopped Aria.

"Let’s calm down, Aria. Miranda-san too, please don’t provoke her."

Miranda’s expression turned serious.

And then, her eyes turned towards the leaflets the two of them were holding. Her expression turned cold.

"……To be frank, the two of you have no motivation."

Miranda indifferently mentioned the two’s bad points.

"You two cannot act without instructions. It looks like you two are dissatisfied towards Lyle who is doing his best, but I wonder about that? Are the two of you not wrong in the slightest? If you came here for learning then you can just go learn whatever you like. You two will be given money for it, and Novem too won't give any objection if you two have proper reasons for your choices. Besides, if you two have motivation then you two can just try asking me isn't it? Just by asking me if I know any good place your problem will be as good as resolved. Or if not me then perhaps……you can ask Clara?"

Both Aria and Sophia didn't know Arumsaas well.

Because of that, if they were going to ask someone about good places to learn, then they would have to ask Miranda or Clara.

However, both Aria and Sophia almost never talked with Clara.

Sophia was unable to argue back.

"Tha, that's true but……"

Aria was driven by her anger and vented her words with a strong tone.

"The leader is Lyle. There shouldn't be any problem if he give us instructions. There shouldn't be any problem if he tell us how we should move! Besides, this is because you're wrecking our relationship! Until now everything went well before you came along!"

After she finished venting her dissatisfaction, Aria was breathing heavily and looked down.

However she immediately lifted her face to see what kind of face Miranda was making.

There, she found Miranda’s face that wasn’t showing any particular emotion.

"……Hmm, and? Then I’ll tell you this. A relationship that is broken with just a sentence from me, in the end is something that is only on that level, so it’s nothing for me to be concerned about."

Saying that, Miranda entered into the house.

Both Aria and Sophia were dumbfounded by Miranda’s words.

They were dumbfounded, despondent……and then they exploded.

"Don’t screw around! What the hell is with that woman!"

"I, I can’t tolerate it anymore! Aria, let’s go to library right away. I heard that Clara-san is over there!"

After being told all that, far from being depressed, they were getting fired up instead.

The two of them weren’t the type to just stay quiet after getting told that much.

Aria raised her voice.

"What do you mean by becoming number one. What do you mean that it’s only a relationship of that level! Speaking whatever you like……I’ll show you!"

Sophia too seemed to have gone over her limit. She was yelling in front of the house.

"YOU BLACK HEARTED WOMAAAANNN!"

They didn’t have the personality to back down when they were made fun of. With their legs they headed towards the library—

The two of them ran off with a loud voice.

"……Did something happen?"

Poyopoyo brought Shannon who became unable to move from fatigue into the house. There was only me alone in the garden.

The voice that came from inside the Jewel was the bewildered voice of the Fourth.

[They’re bothering the neighbors.]

The Second was harsh towards Aria-san and Sophia-san.

[That idiot duo is still the same huh.]

Because of the friction among us recently, I was worried if their dissatisfaction had finally exploded. Poyopoyo came out to the garden at that timing. She was waving her hand with a smile.

"Chicken dickwad, your Poyopoyo has returned after perfectly carrying out your command. That’s why, please decide a suitable name for me already."

Would there be any perfection or imperfection just from taking Shannon inside and laying her down?

I thought that it would be fine even if she just threw down that girl on the floor.

More importantly, it was irritating that she would blatantly appeal that she wanted her name changed to me like this.

"Do you hate being called Poyopoyo that much?"

"As expected that name is a bit unacceptable, is what I think."

I completely closed my mouth in front of the automaton who was replying with a serious look.

However, what would be a suitable name for her?

I was thinking about that but I didn't come up with anything. I sighed.

"I'll think about it. Setting that aside, actually I have a problem."

"Hou, so chicken dickwad will finally consult with me? You can depend on me. After all, this Poyopoyo is the best automaton. I'm different from a certain piece of junk somewhere."

"Piece of junk? Ah, you mean Lily-san."

"……Lily-san? Guessing from the way chicken dickwad said it, don't tell me you're referring to the piece of junk at Professor Damian's place? The, there is no way she received that kind of good name, it's a lie right? Please tell me it's a lie, chicken dickwad!"

Poyopoyo looked really frustrated that the other's name sounded better than hers.

The Third was laughing.

[Well, anyone will think so.]

The Seventh was also the same.

[As expected I can't back you up today, Lyle.]

I returned back to the topic when they told me that my naming sense sucked.

"Actually I'm worried about the party's scale."

"E, eh? Are you ignoring my plea, chicken dickwad?"

I conveyed my thinking to the dumbfounded Poyopoyo.

I asked her whether it would be possible to decrease the required time and personnel to conquer floor B30 of Arumsaas's underground dungeon.

I was told that normally a party would secure from thirty until fifty people and spend several years to achieve it.

When I talked about my true feelings too that I didn't want to spend that much time, Poyopoyo nodded repeatedly while going 'uh-huh, uh-huh'. Her twintail was fluttering lightly.

"In short you don't want to waste time."

"As expected its harsh hearing it'll take five years. Even three years sounds too long for me."

Then Poyopoyo puffed up her chest.

"Please leave it to me, chicken dickwad! This Poyopoyo will resolve that kind of problem completely."

"You have some kind of plan!?"

"Yes! Everything will be as good as settled if you bring this Poyopoyo along with you."

The automaton said confidently to bring her along. I looked at her in exasperation and sighed.

"I'm an idiot for consulting you."

"Eh? Why are you feeling that dejected? Chicken dickwad, bluntly speaking I'll be a great help in fighting, and if I feel like it I can

continue working without sleep or rest. I also don’t need any meal or excreting like the other females."

I wished that you wouldn’t say something like excreting so brazenly. No, it was actually an important problem but, what use would it be just by taking along only her alone?

"Now see here, what’s needed isn’t just fighting strength. We also need supporters. Can you fight while also carrying the baggage of everyone by yourself?"

Poyopoyo tilted her head.

"That’s not impossible. But, honestly speaking I’ll be happy to take care of chicken dickwad but, doing that for the others is a bit……"

The Sixth was showing interest.

[This automaton doesn’t say that she can’t do it huh. Can she really do it?]

First that would be impossible for a human.

But, perhaps she might really be able to do it.

However, still.

At present I didn’t understand why the ancestors were telling me to not use Arts. If I relied on Poyopoyo’s strength like this, they might tell me next to conquer the dungeon without relying on Poyopoyo this time.

Not understanding what the ancestors were thinking was a problem.

"If possible, I want to work hard with everyone or should I say……I want to raise our strength. Though perhaps you won’t get it even if I said that to you."

Just what was I saying to her.

It was pathetic of me thinking that she would be able to solve this problem.

Then, Poyopoyo tilted her head.

"I thought that it’s a bit strange but……"

"What?"

"Chicken dickwad’s objective, is to conquer floor B30 isn’t it?"

"That’s right."

"The condition is only that the use of Arts is forbidden?"

"No, the silver weapon, or rather the great sword is also no good. Ah, I guess you don’t know about that."

Poyopoyo was staring at me unabashedly. She put her hand on her chin and probed for my true intention.

"Just what is your objective for doing this? Do you want to raise everyone’s strength, or else do you want to increase the number of party members……it’s not clear what it is that you want to do. It doesn’t look like you just need to conquer the dungeon and everything will be okay."

Even I wanted to ask that.

But, the ancestors inside the Jewel wouldn’t speak clearly.

I didn’t know what the answer was.

Then Poyopoyo was—

"Then, to summarize, we’ll have to make the useless bunches outside of chicken dickwad to work too while carrying out the

exploration with the minimum personnel until we reach floor B30. Can I take those as the conditions?"

"……Yeah, I guess so."

Poyopoyo nodded at my words.

"In that case please leave it to me. This Poyopoyo swears to meet chicken dickwad's expectations. If you take me along, I'll guarantee a full course meal even at a joke place like the dungeon."

I responded plainly.

"A full course inside a dungeon is a bit"

Thinking that we were really deep in talk in the garden, I looked towards the house and noticed that the storehouse's door was opened.

Inside, the boss's shell that I previously collected, the thing that Poyopoyo called "armored vehicle" was there.

"……Oi, can that thing move?"

Poyopoyo shrugged her shoulders to my question.

"Well, we have the parts so it's possible to repair it. However, we don't have any fuel on hand."

From what Poyopoyo said, it seemed this fuel was oil that was mined from deep underground. It seemed the oil would have to be refined before being used, but simply put it wasn't something that could be found in Bahnseim.

Because of that, apparently the armored vehicle couldn't be moved.

"I believe if this child can move then it’ll make things easier though."

I looked at the armored vehicle.

Thick armor. Large wheels that seemed to be called tyres.

The cargo storage was spacious, looking like it could be loaded with a lot.

No, if it could move then even people riding it would be—

"……Oi, will it be possible for us to make this move?"

Poyopoyo instantly replied.

"It’ll be able to move if I pull it like a wagon or pushing it from behind. But I think it’ll be difficult for it to move independently like chicken dickwad imagined."

I approached the armored vehicle.

I touched it with my hand and tried the magic for moving golems that Damian taught me before.

"What do you intend to do?"

"No, I’m thinking that it should be fine even if what I’m moving isn’t a puppet."

The golem magic that Damian created was only used by him to move puppets, so I was under the impression that it could only move something with a humanoid shape.

But, if it was magic for moving something, wouldn’t something with a simpler shape be better?

I tried that idea.

The armored vehicle shined faintly inside the storehouse, then I took a slight distance and ordered it to move.

"Move……move!"

Poyopoyo was watching me from the side.

At first it didn’t move, but before long the tires slightly moved.

However……it didn’t move to the front but behind.

"E, eh?"

The order I gave should be to move forward, but it didn’t move like I wanted.

Poyopoyo gave applause in admiration.

"That’s surprising. Magic is really convenient. However, it cannot move properly like that."

It moved.

If I practiced, I might be able to move it well.

I asked Poyopoyo.

"What if it’s something smaller? Particularly if it’s a wagon will it be able to move?"

Poyopoyo didn’t deny it, but she also pointed out the problems.

"I think it will move, but I don’t know whether it will be able to produce the horse power so it can be useful in this dungeon place. Besides, placing people and baggage in it and then moving it will require quite a lot of energy."

Damian could move four golems at the same time like it was no big deal.

It might be impossible for me to move four simultaneously, but it should be possible if I narrowed it to just one.

"Yosh, let’s immediately buy one and test it."

Poyopoyo smiled.

"Ah, then I’ll accompany you. It’s shopping with chicken dickwad. Shopping!"

This girl, was buying a cart with me something to be happy about?

If she was a girl then buying clothes or accessories would be something happier……no, she was a machine huh.

It felt like I would forget that fact because her appearance was too similar with a human.

"Then let’s go. Now then, what kind of cart should we buy."

"I’ll be able to make one myself if we have the materials ready."

This girl, she said that she would be able to create a cart.

"……Just what in the world are you? Normally a maid or servant won’t be able to do that much right?"

"What are you saying?"

Poyopoyo pressed her hand on her forehead and acted exasperated at me.

"It’s only natural for a maid to be able to do this much."

"I, is that so?"

She answered really confidently, that I almost fell into the misapprehension that perhaps it was me who was strange because I couldn’t make a cart.

"N, no, as I thought it’s strange."

"It’s not strange. Poyopoyo is the greatest masterpiece of maid type automatons! It will be a disgrace if I can’t do this much."

I stopped thinking deeply. It gave me a headache to keep up with her.

"Doesn’t matter. For now let’s purchase a cart first."

I went to buy a cart together with Poyopoyo.

.

—Sophia came to the library together with Aria.

They went around looking for Clara and when they found her, the two of them immediately started talking.

Clara was looking alternately at the two with a slightly confused look before she opened her mouth.

"Where is a good place to learn martial arts in Arumsaas is it?"

Sophia nodded.

"We don’t have familiarity with this place, so we don’t have any idea where the famous dojos or schools are. We wish to ask about such places that Clara-san knows."

Aria also spoke in high spirit.

"We want to be stronger than right now."

Clara was bewildered at Sophia and Aria who were talking up a storm, but she talked so that the two of them calmed down. The way she spoke sounded somewhat admonishing.

"I understand the feelings of the two of you. If it’s something like that, then I don’t mind introducing the dojo that I know."

Sophia said her thanks.

"Tha, thank you very much!"

"However, there is something that I wish to confirm first. Right now, what is the objective of you two?"

The two of them looked at each other’s face and tilted their head. Aria looked at Clara once more.

"We told you, to become strong."

"I won’t deny your feelings of wanting to become stronger. But, if you allow me to say, the two of you’re already strong. I believe in Arumsaas the two of you are already top class if it’s in regards to pure strength."

Aria and Sophia were embarrassed being told that.

The two of them were simple people.

Clara explained to the two of them who were like that with a gentle tone.

"What I’m asking is, what is the objective of the two of you— of Lyle-san’s party. From what I heard when working together with your party, it’s to conquer floor B30 isn’t it?"

Was there any change? Clara asked. Sophia shook her head.

Clara continued her talk.

"In that case, you two should take action for that sake. The type of monsters that appear until floor B30, the type of traps, and then the effective way of fighting. If both of you learn those, then your party

will definitely be able to smoothly advance until floor B10 even with your current party composition."

Sophia was surprised.

"I, I'm sorry but, will it really be enough with just that? We're going to leave Arumsaas one day, so we're thinking to obtain strength that will be applicable even in other places though?"

They wanted to be stronger to defeat monsters and advance forward, Sophia stated. Aria also nodded in agreement with that.

"That way will be easier."

Clara gave a faraway look after hearing the two's reply, but she shook her head and returned her gaze to the two.

"Gathering and sharing information with the party is important. Even if Lyle-san knows the approach of how to deal with a problem, if the both of you don't know about it then you two won't be able to move effectively."

Clara explained that normally someone would challenge a dungeon only after gathering more information. Clara muttered in a small voice.

"Lyle-san also has it hard doesn't he."

Sophia pondered, but she didn't understand what she should do.

"E, err, in that case what should we do then?"

Clara took out a memo paper and introduced a private school that was teaching about the underground dungeon.

"They will teach you various things if you go here. From knowledge and manners for beginners, and even things intended for intermediate adventurers, you can study them all there."

Aria’s face slightly frowned hearing the word study.

She was making the face of someone who wasn’t good with sitting at a desk to study.

"How much do we have to study there?"

Clara politely answered the question of the two.

"I think it will be ten meetings with two hours for each meeting. They will also teach the types of monsters and the way to deal with them. The payment will be in a subscription basis so please check your schedule first beforehand. The lecture fee for elementary level is—"

Sophia thought when she heard the amount.

(Tha, that’s expensive.)

The amount wasn’t so large that it shocked her, but she was hesitating to pay that much money for knowledge that would only be usable in Arumsaas.

Clara was able to understand that feeling of Sophia.

The two of them were wearing their hearts on their sleeves.

"Perhaps you think that it’s slightly expensive, but it’s far better to learn it rather than not knowing it at all. After that, about the dojo that I’ll recommend to the two of you, bluntly speaking it’ll depend on your feelings. Do you wish to master your current style further, or do you wish to take the challenge of learning a new style?"

Aria looked interested.

"By new you mean?"

"Aria-san is a warrior who makes use of your speed. I believe that you'll be able to take on the role as a scout too. But, that role will be unnecessary if Lyle-san uses his Arts. Miranda-san looks like she's also able to do the same thing but, it's worrying that there isn't a party member who specializes as a scout."

In Lyle's party, Lyle was too capable that his comrades didn't get any work.

Because of that, skills other than combat wasn't demanded from both Aria and Sophia.

"Scout……certainly it might be unneeded with Lyle there."

However Clara explained just how important a scout was.

"Originally, a scout is a really important role. Although there are also few roles that aren't important, but the scout is a role that will be prized no matter which party you're in."

Even if someone didn't specialize in scouting, personnel to carry out scouting was indispensable in a dungeon.

Aria's eyes were sparkling. Sophia was getting impatient seeing that and asked Clara in a hurry.

"The, then, can you tell me what might be suitable for me?"

Clara was slightly troubled.

"I think that Sophia-san can also learn new things but, you're plainly strong so perhaps it'll be better to polish your current style."

"A, are you saying that it's impossible for me to learn new things?"

Sophia was dejected. Clara sighed seeing that.

"This is my personal opinion so I think it cannot be relied on but, bluntly speaking the two of you are already strong. In Arumsaas perhaps there are only several people or even less who'll be able to follow Aria-san's speed. And then, Sophia-san can manipulate weight can't you? I believe that it's a really appreciable Art for those who fight on the frontlines."

The Art that Sophia had was the manipulation of the weight of an object she was touching.

The Art that Aria had was to increase her own speed further.

Clara explained that from her perspective, both of those Arts were enviable Arts to have.

"……Is that so? As for me I'm jealous with Aria's Art."

When Sophia said that, Clara strengthened her tone slightly.

"That's a luxurious envy. After all many adventurers don't have any Art and fight by relying on tools."

Everyone had the potential to manifest an Art for a person.

But, they couldn't choose what kind of Art would manifest for them.

Some people didn't get the Art that they wished for, and there were also those who obtained useless Arts.

Sometimes there would also be Arts with broken functions, but Sophia's Art was a type that anyone could be happy with if they obtained it.

Clara lifted her left arm.

She opened a part of her left arm that was a prosthetic. A metal stick was plugged in there.

"Also, if you want to become stronger quickly then it might be good to purchase magic tools."

A magic tool was a tool that reproduced an Art by engraving patterns on a tool.

Other than that, tools that moved using magic stones as an energy source were also called magic tools.

Aria scratched her head.

"That’s impossible for me. I have this after all."

The red Gem hanging on her neck had a different color from the Jewel that Lyle had.

Its compatibility with a magic tool was bad. They would interfere with each other and make the Arts unusable.

Sophia looked down.

"Tha, that’s……a magic tool is expensive so, we don’t have the budget to purchase it."

Magic tools were fundamentally expensive.

The reason was because the metal that became the material for a magic tool was rare.

Even bronze or iron would need to be one that contained mana inside to be usable as a material. Metal with mana inside them was considered as a rare metal and had a high price.

Clara had realized that the battle axe Sophia had was made from rare metal.

"Previously I had seen your battle axe. I think it’s using a rare metal as its material. I believe that you will be able to a obtain magic tool for cheap if you use that."

Sophia was surprised.

It was her house’s heirloom, but she didn’t know the detailed circumstances about it.

"Is that so?"

"Yes. I think there’s no doubt about it. It should be usable if you have Arts engraved on it. I know a craftsman so should I introduce you to him?"

Sophia’s face turned bright. Aria was also happy.

"That’s great, Sophia!"

"Ye, yes!"

In front of the rejoicing two, Clara,

"Bo, both of you, please be quiet in a library."

She warned the two with a troubled face—

Chapter 59 – Trial And Error

The house of the Circry sisters was noisy since the morning.

Sandwiches that were easy to eat were lined up on the table. It was Aria-san who was eating them in a hurry. I was staring at that sight.

"You're eating a lot right from the morning."

Aria-san's throat choked and she drank to wash it down into her stomach.

"I won't last if I don't eat, I have plans for today from morning until evening so I don't need lunch."

It was Poyopoyo who was looking at Aria-san in exasperation.

"Please swallow after chewing more thoroughly. That's a bad manner, and it'll be problematic for your health—"

Then Sophia-san's voice came from the entrance.

"Aria, I'll go ahead."

Aria-san stood up from her chair.

"Wa, wait. I'm going too!"

Novem saw off the two who were flurried since the morning with a smile.

"They're flurried, but the two of them have become brighter than before."

I brought a sandwich to my mouth.

"I wonder where they are going?"

Novem answered me.

"It looks like they're learning about Arumsaas's underground dungeon. Then I heard that in the afternoon they will be working hard at a dojo."

"H~m"

My gaze returned to the table.

Shannon was eating a sandwich while looking sleepy and dropped some pieces of food. Miranda-san hit Shannon's head and warned her.

"Shannon, that's a bad manner."

"I, I'm sorry, Onee-sama."

When Miranda-san finished eating, she stood up and started preparing to go out.

"I'm also going out. I'll return for lunch, so please take care of the housework. It's fine if you use Shannon too."

Saying that Miranda-san also went out, then Shannon relaxed with an obviously relieved look.

She put her elbow on the table.

"Haa~, finally it became quiet."

Poyopoyo looked at the relaxed Shannon.

"You seem relieved, but after I finished tidying up the breakfast then it will be special training you know? Special training! After that you will help with the sweeping."

Shannon made a displeased face.

"Ee~, I want to rest today. I was working hard yesterday."

I snorted at Shannon.

"Yesterday you also said that and just idled about since the afternoon."

Shannon was reading a picture book on a sofa yesterday.

Shannon couldn’t read and write because her eyes couldn’t see until recently. Because of that, nowadays she would be absorbed in reading the picture books that were bought for her. Novem looked at me.

"In that case, what if Lyle-sama accompanys her to go out? Lyle-sama too hasn’t really had a look around Arumsaas."

I looked at Shannon’s face.

She was making a terribly displeased face just like me.

"No way."

"Even I don’t want that. I’ll go out together with Onee-sama when she returns."

We glared at each other. Novem was watching with a smile and—

"It seems that today there will be a traveling entertainer troupe doing their show in the main street during the morning."

Shannon who heard that showed interest.

She was fidgety.

"I, is that so? Then……I’m fine with going."

I averted my face from Shannon.

"I’m not going."

Shannon’s face looked like she was going to cry. The ancestors inside the Jewel sympathized with her.

[Oi, she is going to cry.]

[Just take her to watch the show.]

[Lyle, your attitude is pathetic to watch you know?]

[You’re mentally childish like Shannon huh.]

As expected I thought the Fifth was exaggerating when he called me childish.

But, the Sixth was also agreeing with the Fifth’s opinion.

[Lyle’s mental age is the same as Shannon? Certainly it’s no wonder they can get along so well!]

[Now that you mentioned it Shannon was also living in the confinement of her mansion.]

The Seventh’s words stabbed into my chest.

She was usually a stupid girl, but if we talked only about the environment then she was similar to me in that respect.

No, thinking about how she was confined since she was born, then perhaps her treatment was even worse than mine.

"……I’ll take you there if you properly clean up."

Shannon’s depressed face turned bright like a blooming flower.

Novem looked at me and smiled, while Poyopoyo was looking at Shannon enviously but she didn’t try to get in the way.

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Arumsaas’s main street.

The troupe of entertainers consisted of elves. They were singing and acting out a drama.

There were also elves that were showing acrobatic moves. A crowd was created at the surroundings.

I went out with Shannon but, my mind was occupied with the cart that I was currently in the middle of experimenting with.

Shannon was watching a performer who was standing on a large ball while juggling.

She was watching seriously with clenched hands.

I could hear kind voices inside the Jewel that weren’t directed to me.

[It’s great that she’s having fun.]

[She couldn’t go outside until now after all, something like this is good for her.]

[She has something like mystic eyes but, she is acting like her age. No, a bit more childish than that I guess. It’s good for her to have this kind of fun too.]

[Right now anything must be interesting for her no matter what she sees.]

[Ain’t that right. I want to let her see and do even more things.]

[Lyle, Shannon is also someone who inherited the Walt House’s blood. Treat her preciously.]

You guys were just kind because the other side was a girl. This attitude was completely different from their usual treatment to me. Was I wrong to feel that it was unreasonable?

It felt like both the Fifth and the Sixth were now acting kind and favoring Shannon because she was a great-granddaughter of the woman called Milleia who they knew really well.

While I was watching the performers while thinking like that, Shannon clutched my clothes.

"Hey, do you dislike being with me that much?"

"Of course. Well, there’s something else that’s in my mind though."

"About the cart? You looked really stupid when you were circling around the garden riding on it."

"You’re annoying."

"Ouch!"

When I poked the forehead of the laughing Shannon, she pressed her forehead and turned a protesting look at me.

"It’s a really important project just so you know. With this it will be easy to transport the baggage. But, there’re a lot of expenses."

I bought a cart, then there were expenses from doing various experiments.

If Poyopoyo wasn’t with me, the expenses might have been even bigger.

The cart I purchased would become unable to move if too much baggage was loaded on it. If I forced it too much then the cart itself would break.

Because of that, we were remodeling it like increasing the wheels from two wheels to four wheels for example.

We were remodeling the cart each time problems appeared like that, so the expenses were piling up.

After thinking to that point, I got a thought.

"……Why am I remodeling a cart after coming to Arumsaas? Even though I was coming here to learn various things."

Accumulating knowledge from the library or private school. Polishing martial arts by attending a dojo.

We should be coming here in order to obtain the necessary techniques as adventurers and new party members, but my days now consisted of tinkering with a cart with my maid Poyopoyo every day.

Just where in the world am I heading to?

Then the song seemed to end and I could hear applause.

Shannon too apparently had lost interest in me. She was clapping her hands especially loudly with her eyes fixed on the singer elf.

"How easygoing."

It was enviable how Shannon could act like this.

It was then, a group with dirty appearances was passing through. The audience scowled.

"Look, adventurers over there."

"Uncivilized bunch."

"Why are they passing through here? They should use another path."

There was also someone wounded and bandaged among the adventurers.

They were heading towards the adventurer guild while carrying heavy luggage.

"Shit, my damn legs are shaky."

"Give me your baggage, I'll carry it."

"Sorry."

The figures of fellow comrades helping each other looked dazzling to me right now.

The wounded adventurer complained.

"The path until the guild is far. It'll be great if we can prepare a horse cart to travel there."

Certainly, the distance from the dungeon until the adventurer guild was long.

Even if there was someone doing that kind of baggage transport business, there would be a lot of problems with it that most adventurers wouldn't make use of the service.

"Don't ask for something absurd. That'll cost money and decrease our earnings. Endure it and walk."

"I want to quickly go back and drink wine."

I saw the adventurers walking away and muttered.

"Costing money huh. Certainly horse carts will cost money, and even renting a cart will be……"

The great amount of baggage was none other than the fruit of their labor in the dungeon.

They were the magic stones and materials that would become the source of income for the adventurers, so they couldn’t throw it away.

There were also people doing business of undertaking baggage transport duty near the entrance, but it seemed there were also malicious people among them who couldn’t be entrusted with the important baggage of the adventurers.

Because it would also cost money to maintain the horses for horse carriage, the cost to use it for one time was high.

Seeing that they had taken the trouble to walk until the surface, they would prefer to just walk towards the adventurer guild without paying a lot of money. That was the popular way. There were exceptions but, anyway the distance from the dungeon’s entrance until the adventurer guild was long.

"……If it’s me I might be able to do it."

I noticed something. Beside the satisfied looking Shannon, I saw off the adventurers while sorting my thoughts.

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—That day, Clara was doing work with the adventurers she was acquainted with.

She entered the dungeon as a supporter.

It should be a job like usual, but a problem occurred after they came out.

If they entered the dungeon and defeated monsters, they would obtain magic stones and strip off usable materials from them. They would obtain those things the more they fought and their baggage would continue to increase.

When she thought that they were finally outside, there was a girl standing there holding a signboard.

Lyle was beside her. Clara thought that the girl must be Poyopoyo who she heard from their story.

She was an automaton wearing a flashy maid uniform. The signboard that Poyopoyo was holding was written with this sentence.

[Three silver coins until adventurer guild]

At first it was written with five coins, but right now it was crossed out and written with three coins.

Clara approached Lyle who was standing beside Poyopoyo.

"What are you doing?"

There was something that looked like a slightly largish cart behind Lyle.

It had various remodeling done on it and ended up having four wheels.

"No, I'm thinking of starting a baggage transporting business."

Clara was troubled by Lyle's reply.

"……You're giving up being an adventurer?"

"I'm not giving up. I'm modifying the cart a little, but I'm thinking to earn some money for it. Is three silver coins too expensive?"

It would be stupid to pay three silver coins just to carry baggage.

Certainly the distance from the dungeon until the adventurer guild was problematic. However, it would be better to walk rather than paying that much money.

"That’s expensive. It will also depend on the transported amount, but no one will feel like using it if it’s not one silver coin at least."

Lyle started consulting Poyopoyo who was holding the signboard.

"Look, it’s expensive just as I said."

"Chicken dickwad, please don’t falter from that kind of thing. Our service is worth that kind of price."

Poyopoyo wouldn’t yield, but Lyle held his Jewel.

He grasped and rolled it. Clara thought seeing that.

(Is that Lyle-san’s habit?)

Lyle looked resolved about something and nodded.

"Then, let’s have Clara-san test it. Clara-san, I’ll allow you to use our service for free just this once, so can you test this cart’s convenience for us?"

Clara was perplexed hearing that.

"No, I don’t have any right to decide that."

When she refused, her acquaintance who was listening to the talk turned up.

"What, you’re Clara’s acquaintance? If it’s free then I’ll test it. But, can you lad and lady transport this much baggage?"

There was a lot of metal among their items.

In addition the baggage of around twenty people wasn’t few.

The cart itself was big and it looked possible to be loaded with baggage. However, it didn’t look like Lyle would be able to pull a cart with such a heavy load.

Clara looked at the thing that seemed to be a cart and it made her want to tilt her head.

(In the first place its shape……it only looks like a cart with four wheels attached. Its shape is also not suited for being pulled or pushed. It looks a bit unreliable.)

The cart had different shape than normal. It had a shape like a rectangle box with four wheels attached.

There was something that looked like a steering wheel at the front, but it was attached at the baggage carrier side.

Even other adventurers than Clara also showed bewildered expressions at the cart's shape.

Poyopoyo looked at the group.

"You're right. In that case, let's place only half the baggage and the wounded on it."

After saying that, the baggage and the wounded were placed on the cart. Then Lyle and Poyopoyo boarded the cart.

Clara got a headache seeing that.

"What are you doing, Lyle-san? Don't tell me that you're going to tell us to pull the cart?"

The surroundings also looked exasperated, but Lyle smiled.

"As expected that won't be a business in that case. Look, I'll do this."

When Lyle grabbed the wheel that was attached to the cart, it started moving even though there was nothing pulling or pushing it. It moved without problem even though a lot of baggage was loaded on it.

Lyle rejoiced.

"I, it moved!"

Beside him Poyopoyo was making a dissatisfied face.

"The speed is slow as expected. It'll be better if it can output more horse power."

Clara's acquaintance laughed.

"What's this, that's interesting!"

The other adventurers were also really interested.

"Is this a cart? A horse cart that doesn't need a horse?"

"No, if there is no horse then it's just a cart."

"So even this kind of vehicle is invented lately."

This place was Arumsaas.

It was overflowing with unusual things. Even when the citizens saw Lyle's cart, they only thought that it was a new vehicle that the academy invented.

Because of that, it was relatively easy to be received.

If this wasn't Arumsaas then there would be a commotion without a doubt.

Clara was honestly impressed.

(……This is amazing. Amazing but)

The group was making a relieved expression that the amount of luggage they had to carry while walking was decreased.

The surroundings only thought of the cart as a convenient vehicle.

(Lyle-san, just what is he thinking? Is he planning to start a business?)

Lyle was driving the cart through the main street with a delighted look. The cart was moving slowly. Rather than because it was matching the pace of the group that was walking around it, it was because the baggage was too heavy and weighing it down.

"There is still room for improvement. I'll have to remodel it when we get back."

Lyle was thinking seriously about the cart. Clara was getting really complicated feelings seeing him like that—

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Night.

Inside the storehouse, I prepared the lighting and improved the cart with Poyopoyo.

Poyopoyo who was wearing a welding mask processed the metal and affixed it. Sometimes sparks would be scattered from her work. As expected there was a problem with the strength when using wood, so we now used metal.

"As expected I want to make it a bit bigger. I also want to make it to be faster."

Poyopoyo looked over here while still wearing a mask and made a pose of her going 'good grief'.

A stifled voice came from the mask.

"Chicken dickwad is really extravagant. But, as expected more than this and it will be uncharted territory even for me. It will be desirable to obtain someone's cooperation for that."

When I thought about someone who could be asked for their cooperation immediately, it was Damian who came to mind.

However, he seemed to be busy so I would feel bad to bother him.

In the first place, it would be troublesome to bring Poyopoyo to Damian’s lab. Surely she would get into a quarrel with Lily-san.

These two, even though they were fellow automatons they had a bad relationship.

Were they broken, or did the ancient people make them to be like that?

Which was it I wonder?

"……Now that you mention it, a magic tool is used for Clara-san’s prosthetic arm."

The girl who loved the library and also possessed an abundance of knowledge.

If it was her then she might give us some ideas.

When I put down my tool, Shannon entered the storehouse.

"Onee-sama said that it’s time for dinner so come inside."

It seemed that the preparations for dinner were finished.

Shannon looked at my face and chuckled.

"What?"

"Your face is pitch black. Wash your face before dinner. You’re dirty."

Shannon said that before leaving the storehouse. I was irritated seeing that.

"……As expected I don’t like her."

Poyopoyo brought a clean towel and wiped my face.

"Come on, please don’t move, chicken dickwad."

"O, oi, stop. Or rather, why aren’t you dirty?"

Poyopoyo who wouldn’t be strange if she was dirtier than me showed off herself to me triumphantly.

"It’s because this Poyopoyo has high performance. Things like dirt won’t get stuck on me, and even if that happens the dirt will immediately fall off from me. And then, even in case I break down or get damaged, with chicken dickwad’s—"

"Now that you mention it, you only have that single outfit huh. Do you need clothes?"

I was thinking that as expected it would be horrible to only own a single outfit even though she was an automaton, but Poyopoyo was biting a handkerchief with a vexed look.

"I, I’m happy with your feelings but, is chicken dickwad telling me to strip? To tell this Poyopoyo to take off her maid uniform! No, it’s fine. If you tell me to strip at night then I’ll happily strip naked. However, you’re telling me to wear any other clothes than that!? I have pride in this maid uniform!"

This girl was troublesome.

She rejected when I told her that I would buy her clothes because it was pitiful that she only had that single outfit.

I didn’t understand her.

"It’s fine if you don’t mind that but, I think it’s better if you wash your clothes sometimes. Won’t it get any strange smell?"

"It won’t! Even if it smells it will only be the wondrous floral smell of a girl! Aren’t you getting poisoned a bit too much by girls in reality? Even like this I’m a masterpiece that was made in the pursuit of the ideal!"

I snorted a bit.

"What masterpiece will call her master as chicken dickwad huh?"

Poyopoyo was shaking with teary eyes.

"I’m calling you goshujin-sama inside my heard mon!"

What do you mean ‘mon!’ huh. (TN: Sometimes it’s added to make the person sound cuter or to show that the person wants to be pampered)

I won’t be tricked even if you sounded slightly cute just so you know.

"It doesn’t matter I guess. Let’s go eat. Today it’s Miranda-san who’s in charge of dinner huh."

"Ple, please wait. Don’t leave me behind! I’ll cry. I’ll cry so annoyingly! I’ll weep hics hics into your ears while you’re sleeping!"

I turned around and told Poyopoyo with a smile.

"I think you’re already annoying enough."

Poyopoyo looked taken aback with an exaggerated pose, and then she looked happy.

"Insulting me with a smile like that! I’m so happy I’m feeling aroused!"

We had only associated for a short while but, would this girl be happy no matter what I did to her? Well, I was hungry so I headed inside the house.

"Come on, I'll leave you behind if you don't hurry."

"Please wait for me~"

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The next day.

I headed to the library in order to search for Clara-san.

It was really easy to find Clara-san who was spending most of her holiday in the library.

Poyopoyo was acting separately from me to search for data.

I invited Clara-san to the break room and talked to her about my current plan that was in progress.

Clara-san looked slightly exasperated, but she was showing interest at my plan itself.

"Moving a cart using Professor Damian's magic is it? I see, certainly that is interesting."

Rather, it bothered me why no one had ever tried it until now.

"I'm trying out various things, but it's hard because problems keep appearing no matter what. Can I ask you for help?"

Clara-san brought her drink to her mouth and took a sip.

"I don't mind. However, I have only one request."

"Request?"

"Can I receive one cart like that for myself? Because I’m also able to use Professor Damian’s magic."

This was surprising.

"You can use it?"

Clara-san smiled slightly and moved up her left arm.

"This prosthetic arm in the first place is moving using Professor Damian’s magic. I’m using it with the sense like moving only a part of a puppet."

If the cart would make transporting items easier, then Clara-san would also like to help out with that.

"That’s amazing. I understand."

"Then, I’ll be in your care starting from tomorrow. Carrying baggage is also really hard, so if there is that kind of vehicle that can be used to move inside a dungeon it will be a good thing."

Certainly it would be easy if we didn’t need to walk inside the dungeon.

"I’ll count on you. Also—"

"What is it?"

I scratched my cheek with my fingertip shyly.

"Actually there is a book I’m looking for."

.

—The sunlight continued to be strong these days.

Novem went out in order to hang the laundry to dry. She saw Aria and Sophia hurriedly leaving the house right from the morning.

"The two of them are working hard."

She saw them off with a smile, then next Lyle went out to the garden.

Her smile deepened seeing him.

"Lyle-sama, you're going to train after this?"

"Yep. We'll start when Shannon arrive, but more importantly I'm feeling really sleepy."

Seeing him yawning, Novem cautioned him like a mother.

"That's because you're staying up late every day. Please don't force yourself too much."

"O, ou."

Lyle nodded without really arguing back, but even though Novem had warned him several times until now, he was showing no sign of reflecting at all.

But, seeing Lyle getting absorbed into what he was doing so much like that was also making Novem feel slightly happy.

"By the way, about the talk of not entering the dungeon for a while, is it really okay?"

The party wouldn't enter the dungeon for a while because of Lyle's decision.

One reason was because they wouldn't be able to earn money satisfactorily in their current condition.

Another reason and also the true reason was because Lyle and the people around him wished to spend their time concentrating on

what they were doing if possible. But, during that time their income would be zero.

"It’s fine. We also have a gem that can be sold if we really need it. Rather than that, please prepare lunch and dinner for one more person today too."

Novem nodded.

"For Clara-san’s portion isn’t it?"

Recently Clara also often ate lunch and dinner together with them.

It was because she was getting involved with the creation of the vehicle that Lyle was hurrying to finish.

Novem was feeling slightly conflicted about it.

(I don’t want Lyle-sama to have anything to do with that thing too much but, Lyle-sama looks like he is having fun. It will be pitiful if I take it away.)

The broken armored vehicle that was placed inside the storehouse.

Truthfully she wanted to throw it away immediately, but Lyle was taking a liking to it so she left it alone.

Lyle stretched his body.

"Come to think of it, isn’t there anything that Novem wants to do? It’s only us who are doing various things. I’m afraid that you will be burdened too much because of that."

Novem looked slightly troubled.

In the first place, there was nothing for Novem to learn here.

"There isn’t really anything like that for me. I have been taught about various things by my family, besides I’m also enjoying being of assistance to everyone here."

Lyle was concerned for Novem.

"Can’t you just make Poyopoyo do them? It’ll be better for Novem to relax for a bit too."

Novem smiled a little.

"Housework is like a hobby for me. If I find something that I want to learn, please help me at that time."

Lyle was making an apologetic face. Seeing that made Novem feel slightly happy. Because that was how much he was thinking about her—

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Afternoon.

With Clara-san joining, the three of us surrounded the cart.

Poyopoyo had processed some iron pipes to create a framework for the cart. Now its shape was close to a horse cart.

It had a baggage carrier at the back with a seat for the driver to sit at the front.

With four tires, the space for the baggage carrier was spacious.

"……It feels like this isn’t a cart anymore. No, it’s still a cart but, it looks like something different."

It was still a vehicle to be loaded with baggage so it wouldn’t be wrong to call it a cart, but this thing here was something different that was reinforced with magic tools or machines.

Certainly we might have to assign it a different name.

I scratched my hair.

"Well, let’s decide the name later. Even after this far it’s still has a lot of problems after all."

Compared to before it could be loaded with heavier cargo and it also could produce more speed, but as expected the burden on the driver was great.

There was a problem in moving it for a long time.

Clara-san fixed the position of her glasses with her finger while looking at the cart.

"There is a limit to move it with just a human’s magic power after all. Perhaps Professor Damian will give you an idea if you ask him. He might even complete it if he gets interested."

I shook my head.

"I can’t do that."

"Why is that?"

"As expected it’ll make me feel bad to keep relying on him. And above all else I want to complete it by ourselves."

Inside my heart it was getting fun to complete this project like this with our own effort.

At the very least I wanted it to be a bit more in shape before I went to consult Damian.

"Can it be supported more using magic tools? Please do something about it with the fantasy magic power."

Clara-san was exasperated.

"Please don’t think of magic tools as something all powerful. Even magic has its limits."

But, Clara-san touched the cart while thinking, then she continued.

"However, it might be possible to supplement it with mana. It will be possible to obtain mana from a rare metal or obtaining it directly from a magic stone for example."

Poyopoyo was getting angry.

"So it’s actually possible. As expected from fantasy power."

Didn’t the ancient people use magic? From Poyopoyo’s perspective, it seemed that magic was a mysterious phenomenon. From my perspective it was Poyopoyo who was a mysterious existence.

Clara-san narrowed her eyes that already looked sleepy even during normal times.

"Using a rare metal and magic stone means that the maintenance cost will simply increase. In my opinion, it will be better to decrease the size of this cart and its loading capacity. There won’t be any problem with an individual moving it like that, and it will be more maneuverable inside the dungeon."

Even with a small size, it would drastically increase the amount that one person could carry.

Certainly, that way might be better if it was only used for entering the dungeon.

Poyopoyo looked dissatisfied.

"I wish that the final result will be able to at least move the armored vehicle sleeping in the store house though."

Clara-san looked at the storehouse.

She saw the armored vehicle stored there and shook her head.

"In order to move that, you will undoubtedly need “magic ore”. It’s an object with a prize of several hundred gold coins at the very least. Can you prepare something like that?"

When Poyopoyo heard the new words of magic ore, she started mumbling complaints like "This is why fantasy worlds are just".

Then the Third’s voice came from inside the Jewel.

[Eh? Now that she mentioned it, Lyle has one right? You know, you should have the “peridot” that you obtained before.]

The Fourth refused.

[Magic ore is a fortune that is easy to be carried around. There’s no need to use it. If we can prepare magic stones or rare metals for replacement then it’s better to do that.]

Before I could say that I had a magic ore, Clara-san took out several books that she brought here.

"I brought the books about magic tools. But, what we’re doing here is too groundbreaking, I don’t know whether they will be useful."

I took one of the books and things regarding magic tools were written there.

It was filled with the method to create one or the principles behind it.

Poyopoyo took the other books and flipped the pages with an amazing pace.

"You, are you reading it properly like that?"

Poyopoyo answered without stopping her hand from flipping the book.

"To be more accurate I’m copying it but, I’m also confirming the data so there’s no problem. It’s more primitive than I imagined."

Clara-san was slightly bewildered.

"What’s written in that book is the basics of the basics. The recent magic tools have their method of creation kept secret. Or rather, does Poyopoyo-san have the same Art like mine?"

I looked at Clara-san.

"Clara-san has an Art?"

She nodded a bit shyly and then she showed her Art to me.

"My Art is peculiar. It’s rare but it’s a type of Art that doesn’t have any stage. I’m grateful just from manifesting it but, it’s not useful for battle."

Clara-san spread out her hands and there a book appeared.

Poyopoyo opened her eyes wide.

"……Are you lying about it not being useful? Just now, this person manifested a book from empty air."

The Third who loved reading was showing interest.

[Nice. Clara-chan is amazing. How should I say it, she’s a talent that cannot be let go.]

The Third who was usually easygoing was showing a strong interest in Clara-san. The way he spoke was like he wanted to bring her into my party.

Clara-san shook her head.

"My Art is Walking Library……to put it simply, I’m safekeeping the books that I have personally read until now. I can turn my knowledge into the shape of a book like this."

I was honestly impressed.

"That’s an amazing ability. It might not be useful for battle, but isn’t it a precious Art for anything else than that?"

However, Clara-san shook her head.

"There are a lot of people with similar, no, even more excellent Arts of the same type than me. Those kinds of people are recruited as staff in the Academy or the library. I’m not recruited by them."

Clara-san said that her Art was inferior compared to others.

She said that she wasn’t evaluated highly by the academy and the library.

"It’s like I have a library inside me. I’m imagining it like the book I’m reading is placed into the bookshelves there. I can take the book out and manifest it anytime I like, but other people can comprehend all the letters that are written inside a book just by touching it. They can also easily remove unnecessary knowledge, and in addition they can also easily reproduce the book."

It seemed Clara-san was told that her ability was lower in every aspect.

Poyopoyo took the book that Clara-san manifested in her hand and stared at it from various angles.

"I’m working as a supporter also because I can’t work at the Academy or the library. Well, if I’m living here I can read as I please so I’m satisfied."

Clara-san seemed to think it was really surprising that Poyopoyo had the same Art like her.

However, Poyopoyo closed the book with a thump and gathered our gaze.

"Unfortunately, I don’t have any game-like skill like an Art. I’m only saving the data I obtained from my sense of sight. Though I’m also analyzing the content at the same time."

I was puzzled at the words game or skill. Were they ancient words? (TN: Poyopoyo said the word for game and skill in English here)

Clara-san looked apologetic, but I believe that there wouldn’t be any problem even if she didn’t feel guilty towards this girl.

"I, is that so. My apologies."

However.

"However, there is no need to feel pessimistic. I think this is an amazing ability."

I was impressed.

"So even you can show kindness sometimes."

Poyopoyo made a displeased face in response to my impression.

"Wha, what?"

"I hate flattery. Even though I’m singing the praises of chicken dickwad, there is no reason for me to favor other people. That’s why this is just a pure evaluation."

Clara-san was slightly bewildered.

It looked like she didn’t understand how to reply.

"She was acknowledging me wasn’t she? Should I express my thanks?"

"I don’t need any gratitude from anyone other than chicken dickwad. It’s a bother. However, will this copied book vanish?"

Clara-san shook her head.

"Normally a book made like this will vanish in one or two weeks, but in my case the book won’t vanish. Even the people at the library was shocked about that."

However, it wasn’t like she was able to create several hundred books in one day by herself. She was limited to several books per day.

It seemed the academy and the library thought that there would be no problem with letting Clara-san go.

Poyopoyo was mystified.

"Won’t you be able to earn money just from producing books? Perhaps, do you have any plans of opening a shop?"

Clara-san looked embarrassed.

"Even if I sold several books per day to a second hand bookstore, I won’t be able to support myself with the money from there. Even if I want to open a shop I don’t have any money, so I’m working as an adventurer. Well, I want to open a bookstore in the future though."

It seemed that Clara-san’s dream was to live surrounded by books.

The Third was also agreeing.

[That’s nice. I also want to live while reading for the whole day.]

The Third who was born as a noble and could only live as a feudal lord seemed to want to support Clara-san’s dream.

Poyopoyo concluded the talk.

"Now then, this trivial talk is finished here."

"Don’t say that someone’s dream is trivial."

Clara-san was shocked from being told that it was a trivial talk.

It seemed I was mistaken to have a slightly better opinion of Poyopoyo.

Poyopoyo touched the cart with her hand.

"Rather than that kind of dream of the future that is possible to be realized, I’ll prioritize chicken dickwad’s order! Now then, I have learned the basics so I shall re-examine the design."

Poyopoyo detached the cart’s parts. Clara-san and I looked at each other’s faces.

I was about to apologize for Poyopoyo’s attitude, but Clara-san was smiling happily.

"What’s the matter?"

"I’m a bit happy. Because she recognized my dream as possible to come true. Other people would tell me, think more about your happiness as a woman, or things like that."

……I didn’t really get it but, it seemed Clara-san was happy in her own way.

Chapter 60 – The Targeted Party

The season was going to turn into autumn.

We came to Arumsaas at summer, so nearly three months had passed when I noticed.

Speaking of what I was doing during this period, I was learning martial arts from Poyopoyo and tinkering with the cart.

I was working inside the storehouse until late at night again today. I came out from the bathroom alone and yawned.

"I'll wake up early again tomorrow so I need to go to sleep already."

I was thinking that the dinner Novem made was delicious while entering the living room. There I found two girls sleeping on the sofa tiredly.

It was Aria-san and Sophia-san.

I reflexively averted my eyes.

The two of them, even though the weather was still hot, I was wondering about the wisdom of sleeping in underwear like that.

I guessed that they had gotten used to living in the house of Circry sisters and their tension was now gone.

Both Aria-san and Sophia-san weren't wearing underwear with any sexiness. But, their healthy limbs and stomach were visible.

The slender and healthy Aria-san, then Sophia-san who was sleeping in a posture that emphasized her large breast……

I was troubled of where to look.

Weren’t they thinking about me staying in this house too?

"Come to think of it, I’m only seeing them at the morning huh?"

Recently because everyone was busy they wouldn’t stay at home for long, so we couldn’t have any relaxed conversation. I would stay until late at night, and it also became often that I took dinner at different time.

The ancestors were getting strangely excited.

[The two of them have nice body. But when it comes to their head……]

[Those are nicely shaped butts.]

[If only Aria’s breasts are a bit smaller then she will be ideal.]

[It’s great that both of them look healthy.]

[However, this……there isn’t any sexual allure from this. They should have more sense of shame.]

[Being too brazen is making the sexual allure cannot be felt instead.]

I wasn’t asking the preference of you guys.

However, the temperature was also getting colder recently.

They couldn’t stay like this. I went out of the room to get a towel blanket or something to cover them. There I ran into Miranda-san.

"Oh, could it be you saw the two of them?"

She was carrying a towel blanket in her hand. She was smiling at me.

My face abruptly turned red.

I became even redder than just now when I saw the two of them in their underwear.

It felt like I got caught doing something bad—it felt embarrassing.

Miranda-san smiled seeing me like that.

She then headed to the sofa and covered the two of them with the towel blanket.

Seeing her overflowing with kindness just like when we first met made me unable to understand Miranda-san’s true feeling.

Recently the people Miranda-san would talk with inside the house were Shannon and Clara-san. And sometimes Poyopoyo I guess?

She would only talk about housework with Novem. I only ever saw the two of them having businesslike conversation.

It was on my mind so I tried asking her.

"Miranda-san, can I ask you one thing?"

"What is it? Could it be you’re curious about my underwear?"

I averted my gaze from Miranda-san who was strangely emitting sex appeal.

I realized that my face was getting even redder and pressed my face with my hand to hide it.

"That’s cute. Now then, I’ll stop the joke here and listen to your question."

Miranda-san sat down and leaned on the sofa’s back. Even though she was wearing a mini skirt she lifted her leg high and crossed her legs.

It felt like she was teasing me.

"……Miranda-san, why did you proclaim that you want to become my number one? For someone like Miranda-san, how should I say it, it feels like you will be able to handle it in a more skillful way."

I couldn’t express it well with words.

But, if it was someone like Miranda-san, I thought that she didn’t really need to make that kind of proclamation that turned her surrounding into enemy and picked a cleverer method.

In fact, before this she was getting along well with these two sleeping girls.

"A more skillful way. I could do so if I want, but I think that the situation will end up turning even more horrible at the end like that."

"Ho, horrible?"

"Yes. By doing that I think the situation would develop into something like me and Novem getting into dirty conflict revolving around the party’s leadership behind the scene. Aria and Sophia will surely get dragged into it and get the short end of the stick."

Just what kind of horrible thing would occur? I was curious but I also got the feeling that I mustn’t learn it.

"Dirty conflict is it?"

"There’re various methods that I can use if I feel like doing it after all. That’s why, I made the proclamation and disturbed the situation. It was a bother wasn’t it?"

Frankly speaking it was a bother but, I was unable to condemn her……. My shoulders dropped.

"I wish everyone will get along better."

Miranda-san was smiling without any change in expression.

"I know. That’s why I provoked up these two."

What was the connection of my wish with Miranda-san provoking these two?

Miranda-san chuckled when I told her that I didn’t understand.

"Lyle, there is someone with harem party among your acquaintances right?"

She must be referring to the party of Nurx-san who I recently got acquainted with.

After that I ran into him several times in the guild and now we had a relationship of talking with each other if we met.

The relationship between the female camp in Nurx-san’s party was going smoothly, and yet the atmosphere at my place was unfriendly.

I consulted with Nurx-san several times, but it seemed that even Nurx-san had given up.

"The pasture is always greener at the other side."

"What do you mean? Nurx-san’s party is going smoothly. Before this they also got a new comrade and became five man party now."

While I was thinking of what Miranda-san wanted to say, she stood up and returned to her room.

"It’s fine even if you don’t understand right now. It’s also fine even if you don’t get it forever but, just remember this one thing okay? What I’m doing is for Lyle’s sake."

Miranda-san left. I grasped the Jewel in the living room while listening to the sleeper’s breathing of Aria-san and Sophia-san.

But, the ancestors were—.

[That girl, is she really descended from our bloodline?]

[This must be the influence of the blood from the mother's side.]

[It's difficult to have multiple women isn't it. It's making your stomach to hurt.]

[……It's not something I can't understand.]

[Why is Milleia's great granddaughter is like this?]

[Dirty battle of women is it? I don't want to see that.]

—As I thought, these guys were useless for woman relationship.

I suddenly heard a small sleep talk.

I couldn't hear what the voice was saying, but when I turned my gaze, I saw Aria-san who was kicking away the towel blanket on her body.

What should I say, her posture wasn't one that a girl should make.

Her legs were spread open.

The Second murmured.

[It's not sexy at all.]

Certainly it didn't feel sexy.

She was only in her underwear so I felt that I mustn't approach her, even so, I couldn't just leave her alone so I put back the towel blanket on her.

I also made her closed her legs.

A faint scent of medicine came from her when I got near.

"Is this medicine for muscle pain?"

Looking closer she had a lot of wounds that were smeared with medicine.

The medicine for muscle pain was something that Shannon often used so I knew the smell.

The Fifth laughed slightly.

[What, it looks like these two are also working hard. It’s graet that they’re venting their stress outside rather than getting into friction inside the house.]

Everyone was working hard. I opened my mouth hearing that.

"Is this better than before? Rather than me doing something, is letting everyone doing what they want freely like this better for the party?"

The Third made fun of me.

[That depends on the party. These girls are capable, so things will go well even if they take action by themselves. No, rather they were guided well.]

Guided? By who?

Even when I asked, the Third would say "Think about it yourself" and wouldn’t answer.

Because the night had also become late, I returned to my room.

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Arumsaas’s underground labyrinth.

At its floor B3, I, Poyopoyo, and Clara-san were riding on the cart and moving inside the dungeon.

In this one month, the cart’s performance was increasing in surprising amount. It was moving even inside the dungeon without problem.

Clara-san was sitting on the driver’s seat and checked the sensation of the control.

"There is no problem with this. Even I can move it without problem."

Poyopoyo climbed on the cargo bed and looked around.

"This place is like an abandoned building. However, despite that the ceiling is high and the passage is wide. How should I say it, it’s a building that is prepared for human to conquer isn’t it?"

This damn automaton ignored Clara-san’s opinion.

"That’s natural."

"Is it natural? This Poyopoyo is really curious. Why is this kind of convenient place appearing intentionally?"

It wasn’t convenient.

In the first place, a dungeon was a dangerous place.

It felt convenient because it was Arumsaas’s dungeon that was being managed.

"Clara-san, should I switch with you?"

"I, I’m fine."

She seemed to be having fun and getting absorbed with the driving.

I found an unexpected side of her.

I obtained a method to easily travel inside the dungeon.

"It’ll be nice if conquering the dungeon get slightly easier with this thing bu—"

Poyopoyo interrupted me before I finished talking.

"—Oops, it seems there are injured people."

Clara-san stopped the cart. A human’s voice could be heard inside the dungeon that had become quiet.

We took a lantern and pointed it to deeper inside the passage. There were the wounded figures of adventurers there.

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At the surface.

We carried the wounded adventurers to the hospital.

We placed them on the cargo bed and returned to the surface. The adventurer who was the leader said thanks to us many times.

His eyes were gathering tears.

"Thank you. Really thank you. I thought that we wouldn’t be able to move from there anymore and get annihilated."

When I asked him, it seemed that they were attacked at floor B5.

The opponents were persistently attacking their party. They somehow dodged their pursuit while finally climbing up until floor B3, but there their stamina reached the limit and they couldn’t move anymore.

It wasn’t monsters that attacked them but fellow adventurers.

"It’s great that you all survives."

I said that and moved to leave, but the adventurer held out a wallet that was filled with golden coins and silver coins to me.

"I can’t receive this much."

"No, take them. Actually I want to give you even more. Thanks to you guys all of us are able to safely return to the surface with all of our baggage intact. Really thank you."

He wouldn’t accept any refusal, so I obediently accepted it.

According to Clara-san, the adventurers who were attacked were a strong party even at Arumsaas.

I watched them leave while feeling surprised that there were adventurers who could corner a party at their level.

Even so……. My gaze fell toward the wallet in my hand.

The Fourth was sounding really delighted.

[……I smell money. Furthermore it’s an exceptionally first rate smell.]

This miser seemed to get an idea for some kind of business.

[Lyle, until now you were doing transporting business between the dungeon’s entrance and the guild, but this time let’s extend our reach until inside the dungeon too.]

I grasped the Jewel.

I couldn’t reply because there were people around, yet the Fourth didn’t stop speaking.

[Let’s target the adventurers with high earning. For them one or two gold coin won’t be any problem at all. Going further, it will be nice if you accept transporting from the guild until inside the

dungeon—until floor B5. It will be worth it to pay gold coin for that! In addition on your way back you can target the adventurers who want to go out and bring them back to the surface with you!]

That was certainly something doable.

There was the floor traveling device at floor B5. The device could be boarded to move to any floor chosen, so many adventurers aimed to this floor.

It would be fine to say that this device would absolute be used whether for going or returning.

……Was it feasible?

Clara-san looked at me.

"Lyle-san, what have you been thinking since just now?"

"N, no. I got a bit of idea for the business."

Clara-san was exasperated looking at me.

"Lyle-san, your business spirit is stronger than your appearance suggest isn’t it. What kind of business?"

I talked about the Fourth’s suggestion. Clara-san made a slightly difficult look.

"……It won’t be impossible but, it might be difficult."

"Why is that?"

Clara-san pointed out something simple.

"The layout of the dungeon will change on your way in and out, there’re also times when you will get lost. In case monster comes out, we will also have to fight. You will need to take responsibility for

the baggage if it gets damaged during that time. Won’t it be dangerous to do business inside the dungeon?"

We lost the baggage because of monster attack. The client surely wouldn’t accept that excuse.

"……That’s certainly troublesome."

The Fourth was also dejected inside the Jewel.

[That’s right. Right now Lyle is forbidden from using Arts. It’ll be easy if he can grasp the terrain and detect the monster’s position.]

I remembered.

Come to think of it, there was one suitable person.

.

The house of Circry sisters.

"Don’t want. Why do I have to board this kind of strange vehicle!?"

I forcefully put the disagreeable Shannon on the cart.

"It’s fine just get on. The time for your eyes to be useful has come."

If my thinking was correct, this girl should be able to detect enemy inside the dungeon.

Poyopoyo would memorize the route inside the dungeon, while this girl would detect the enemy.

By doing that, we would be able to travel inside the dungeon easily.

"Why do I have to listen to your words!? I don’t wanna!"

I clicked my tongue in irritation before the resisting Shannon.

"You clicked your tongue just now! This gigolo bastard! Do you want money that much that you'll make even me work!?"

Clara-san looked at me after hearing Shannon's words.

"Eh, Lyle-san……you're a gigolo? Come to think of it, recently I've never seen you working."

Poyopoyo was getting high spirited.

"Please rest assured, chicken dickwad. Even if chicken dickwad is a gigolo bastard, I absolutely won't abandon you."

You girls, why were you treating me like a gigolo bastard?

It couldn't be helped so I talked to persuade Shannon.

"Shannon."

"Can you not call my name so familiarly?"

This girl was really irritating.

"I'll give you spending money from the money we earn. On the way back you'll be able to buy a lot of snacks."

The Third complained at the way I persuade inside the Jewel.

[Lyle, no matter what that kind of persuasion is—]

However my opponent was the idiot Shannon.

"I'll do it! I'll buy a lot of snacks! Come on, let's go already."

She hopped up on the cart and hurried us to quickly depart.

The Third was dumbfounded.

[……Eh? Lies. She will cooperate with that kind of persuasion?]

The Fifth spoke a bit sadly.

[This child is that huh. An idiot. Well, let’s just consider it good that it’s the idiot Shannon who was born with the mystic eyes.]

If Miranda-san had mystic eyes then it would become a disaster.

Perhaps it was a blessing in disguise that it was the idiot Shannon who had it.

"Yosh, then let’s try earning a bit of money from today. If possible I want to earn at least ten gold coins per month."

Clara-san also nodded hearing my remark.

"If we can earn that much, then there won’t be any meaning working as adventurer anymore."

I looked at Clara-san and laughed.

"That sounds good. If that happen do you want to run a bookstore together?"

I intended to say that as a joke but—.

"Le, let’s quickly go."

—Clara-san’s face blushed slightly.

Shannon grabbed the wheel of the cart and showed her eagerness.

Poyopoyo looked at me.

"Chicken dickwad is really a womanizer. But that’s fine. Supporting that kind of chicken dickwad is like a dream come true for an automaton."

Wouldn’t there be anyone who could fix this automaton who was calling me trash?

.

—That day, Sophia was swinging down a battle axe in front of a tough looking muscular person.

"Sei-!"

Sophia’s attack was an attack with its weight increased using her Art.

The tough looking person—the dojo master parried it with the shield their left hand was holding and punched Sophia with their right hand.

Sophia lightened her own weight and intentionally got sent flying to take distance.

The dojo master placed the sword their right hand was holding on their shoulder.

"That’s a nice movement, missy."

"Thank you very much for the instruction."

The dojo master was slightly exasperated at the polite Sophia and warned her.

"Don’t take off your gaze from your opponent until it’s over. There’re still many places where you’re crude but, you passed as a vanguard."

During these several months Siphia were polishing her strength in order to at least become a reliable existence as a vanguard. The master put away the weapon and then they addressed the muscular disciples around them.

"You all, learn from the missy and be politer."

Sophia joined this dojo in order to learn the basic in a short time.

It wasn’t a place that taught things like decorum or mental preparedness, but a dojo to raise a warrior that could immediately fight in actual combat.

The disciples in that kind of place were all gruff people.

"Big sis, didn’t you say that you got goosebumps if we copied Sophia?"

"There isn’t anyone we need to keep appearance with at this point."

"Haa, someone introduce a man to me."

The voices replying to the dojo master belonged to women dressed with a lot of exposure.

Yes, this dojo was mainly attended by female.

It wasn’t like it was forbidding man from enrolling, but the dojo master was female so naturally many of the disciples gathered here were also female.

"Men are running away because you all are like that."

Sophia wiped her sweat, and then she put down her weapon.

She was taking off the robe she usually wore and exposed a lot of her skin, but she didn’t mind it because there were only females here.

(I’m somehow getting into shape.)

At first she was confident because she also had real battle experience, but she wasn’t a match against the woman who was the master of the dojo and a first class adventurer.

After that Sophia desperately learned how to fight and she also ended up becoming tougher.

"More importantly, how is the ease of use?"

Sophia turned her gaze to her battle axe at the dojo master’s words.

"I don’t know because I still haven’t used it in real battle."

The master laughed *gahagaha* heartily.

"Exactly! No one will have it hard if you can do well just from training. Well, if it’s missy right now then you won’t lose against the frail bunch around here."

Sophia slightly relaxed after receiving the dojo master’s approval.

"Tha, thank you very much!"

"It’ll be better if you loosen up a bit more but, that’s also missy’s good point so it’s difficult I guess."

The master was exasperated at Sophia’s diligent personality while also praising her. She wiped her sweat with a towel and addressed everyone.

"Oi, break is over! Pick up your weapon and do practice swinging!"

The females raised their voice, lined up, and started swinging.

At this neighborhood, the people were calling the women frequenting the dojo as “amazons” fearfully.

Sophia was working hard at that kind of place for these several months—.

.

Evening.

I looked at the content of my wallet.

The leather wallet was filled not with ten gold coins, but thirty gold coins.

And then I realized.

"……Perhaps, I'll be able to make a living with this."

A service to transport until floor B5, and baggage transport from floor B5 until the surface.

This was really lucrative.

The adventurers who wanted to advance until floor B5 in comfort.

The adventurers who found it tiresome to travel the distance from floor B5 until the guild.

We earned a lot just in one day.

I looked Shannon who was being limp on the cargo bed.

"Oi, you alright?"

"……No more. I can't move."

A dungeon was a place with thick mana. People would get sick when entering it for the first time no matter what. Because of that I thought Shannon would also get sick, but this girl was alright.

But, she was also tired because it was her first time.

Recently she was moving her body and improved her stamina, but fundamentally she was a girl with insufficient exercise who almost never moved her body until now.

She was purely tired and down for the count.

Clara-san was bewildered at the big money that surpassed her imagination.

"E, earning this much money in one day"

Perhaps it was also we were in good luck, but more than that, it proved fortunate that recently we were standing out.

The carriage that didn't need horse became famous. There were a lot of adventurer who wanted to try riding it.

Thanks to that we weren't troubled to look for customer.

Poyopoyo was also delighted.

"With this much money, we will be able to remodel that child even more chicken dickwad!"

Certainly we wouldn't be troubled with the remodeling cost with this.

There were enough leftover even with the amount subtracted for Clara-san's reward and Shannon's snack money.

The Fourth was excited inside the Jewel and wouldn't shut up.

[Incredible! Thirty gold coins in just one day! If it's like this, if we can prepare several carts and create a stable regular service, we will be able to transport the adventurers. If we manage it, then we will be earn a lot!]

The Fifth yelled angrily.

[Shut up you miser! In the first place our objective isn't to do business!]

We earned an amount that made me felt stupid to work diligently as adventurer.

But, I was thinking to draw a line here.

"……I'll go to Damian's place."

Clara-san tilted her head.

"Professor Damian's place, is it? I think it's fine to consider this cart finished already though?"

I looked at the remodeled cart. Certainly the result could be said as finished.

"No, I have a bit of an idea. Besides, it's the armored vehicle in the storehouse that I want to move in the end."

"You still intend to make that move?"

There wasn't any particular emotion in Clara-san's gaze. She wasn't exasperated or angry.

She was simply looking at me.

"Is it no good? I really like that thing though."

Thick armor.

Brusque appearance.

Simple design.

How should I say it, I was growing attached to it when staring at it from nearby.

Besides, no matter how we remodeled this cart, it was just a cart. The dungeon floor B30 was dangerous.

If we got attacked by monster, the cart would be destroyed in one attack and became unable to move.

"I also have my original objective. We're making various preparations is in order to conquer floor B30."

Clara-san was impressed hearing those words.

"So you haven't forgotten your objective. I thought that Lyle-san has gotten completely absorbed in remodeling the cart."

I averted my gaze.

"Tha, there's no such thing."

The Sixth made fun of me inside the Jewel.

[Really? You were sometimes working while humming you know? You really had a lot of fun.]

He really had no shame to say that when they themselves were gradually butting in while we were remodeling the cart.

Unexpectedly, we might be a family who liked this kind of thing.

Poyopoyo used a stick to poke at Shannon who wouldn't move from the cargo bed.

"Shouldn't we return soon? You can visit Professor Damian's lab tomorrow. I think it's better to go home for today. Shannon is exhausted."

She was an idiot brat who got too enthusiastic for the sake of snacks.

"Will Clara-san also come for dinner?"

"I guess I will. Or rather, recently I kept getting treated with meal there."

Clara-san who was smiling wryly looked slightly cute.

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—Three men were sitting around a table in a small room.

One of them was a male student wearing academy’s uniform—a spoiled noble son.

Opposite him were two adventurers. One was young, while the other one was at the prime of his life and grew out beard.

The student, Ludhor placed a bag that was filled with gold coins on the table.

"The advance payment."

The two adventurers checked the content, and certainly it was filled with the promised amount so they readied themselves to listen to the request.

The young adventurer with pretentious attitude, Zalsa reconfirmed the request’s detail.

He was an adventurer but he was wearing a suit. His favorite sword was placed nearby.

He was a prominent swordsman even at Arumsaas. He was also famous as a gentleman.

"With this you’re our client. Your request is to attack the party that you designated. It’s alright to murder everyone except the person you specified, is that right?"

Ludhor folded his arms and made a displeased face.

He wasn’t even trying to hide that he didn’t want to talk with adventurer from his attitude.

He was born and raised as noble. He behaved with confidence as someone standing above others without any doubt.

"That’s right. I’ll obtain Miranda Circry. That woman’s house is a capital noble with the rank of viscount. It’s a worthy house for me to marry into. I want to take her back right away."

Ludhor was one of the male students aiming for Miranda.

He asked his house to prepare money which he used to hire adventurers.

It looked like a hasty action to the two adventurers.

"I don’t know if he is formerly from a house of count or whatever, but she isn’t a woman can be allowed to shelter that kind of guy forever."

Zalsa’s fingers played with his long hair.

"I can’t understand the meaning of being that fixated to a flower that is already dirtied. Well, I guess you will endure that much if you can obtain position with that."

"Watch your mouth, adventurer. You guys just need to do your job."

"Hmm, that’s certainly true. But we too need entertainment. That Lyle party, the women that he’s keeping are all beautiful flowers aren’t they? My comrades said that they want to have fun together with them no matter what."

Zalsa was dressed finely, but the smile he was wearing was vulgar. In respond Ludhor spoke as though to spit out.

"You can do whatever you like as long as it doesn’t get found out. Just don’t cause any problem."

"What, it’s the manner to clean up after having fun. There won’t be any problem as long as we’re careful with the guild card."

Zalsa didn’t have any particular relation with Lyle, but he was going along with the student’s plan simply because he didn’t like Lyle as the reason.

If there was something that could be a problem, it would be the guild card that was used to determine the life and death of adventurer. Guild card existed in pair, one was carried by the adventurer.

The other one was kept by the guild. If the name that was carved on the card got scratched, that would mean that the owner’s death was certain.

Adventurer guild determined the life and death of adventurer using guild card.

Sometimes the guild would also dispatch adventurer in order to search or investigate. The bearded adventurer Benir muttered that it would be troublesome if that happened. He confirmed the point that bothered him in the request.

He was short, but he had thick muscle and fat and also wide body. His pride was his ability to wield a large hammer with his physical strength.

Whether it was monster or human, Benir always crushed anyone standing in his way.

"We’re also free to do anything with their possession right?"

Ludhor was irritated.

"I told you to do whatever you like. I don’t have any interest with the possession of poor people. Also, torture this Lyle guy. I’ll make

that noble from the hicks to receive the punishment of dirtying my Miranda."

Although he said “my”, in the first place Ludhor didn’t love Miranda or anything. He simply desired the position that he thought would obtain by marrying Miranda.

Miranda was just an extra, but it made him furious to know that she was dirtied before he obtained her.

Both Zalsa and Benir noticed that Ludhor’s actual feeling was something like that.

"Inform me when you learn the day when those guys will challenge the dungeon."

After Ludhor left, Benir let out a small sigh.

"Impertinent noble brat."

Zalsa stared at his nail while speaking.

"There’s no problem as long as he’s paying. However, saving a girl who survive from our attack to obtain her trust. It’s amazing that he can think up something like that."

Zalsa laughed in ridicule.

The two of them were acquainted.

They had cooperative relationship going as fellow malicious people who were targeting adventurers.

"I have been rampaging around as I pleased inside the dungeon but, this kind of request is my first time."

Zalsa had a hobby that couldn’t be called praiseworthy.

"Just to remind you, I won’t hand over the flowers that I found."

Benir chuckled.

"Do as you please. You’re also a strange one. Calling female adventurers flower and treating them tenderly, what’s with that? You’re an oddball for craving that kind of female."

Many of the female adventurers were turning manly because of the harsh environment.

Because of that, there were many cases where male adventurers became unable to see them as the opposite sex.

Zalsa was smirking.

He was dressed finely, but his nature was rotten.

"It’s fun to push down and trample strong woman."

"Is that so. Well, I won’t have any problem with it as long as you do your part."

The two adventurers who were committing crime inside the dungeon were forming a plan to attack Lyle—.

Chapter 61 – Its Name Is

Damian’s lab.

Poyopoyo and Lily-san were threatening each other.

"This mass production model, don’t think you can look down on me just because you received a slightly better name!"

"Oh my, Poyopoyo-san, that means you’re recognizing that my name is more wonderful then? Yes, that’s right. My goshujin-sama is wonderful, and then he gave me a lovely name like Lily. But, you’re Poyopoyo……is that a name?"

Poyopoyo raised up a giant hammer with teary eyes. Lily-san readied a broom.

"You’re making fun of chicken dickwad! It’s only me who can make fun of him!"

I sighed.

"Oi, don’t rampage here. You’re being a bother."

Damian was alternately looking at the remodeled cart and the blueprint that I brought. He also agreed and glared at Lily-san.

"It’s busy right now."

The two of them dropped their shoulders in dejection from getting scolded, but they immediately straightened themselves into a dignified stance. I wished they would be like that all the time.

Damian looked at the remodeled cart while adding correction to the blueprint.

"The shape isn’t bad, there’re many aspects of it that are worth seeing but the application of knowledge regarding magic tool to it is the basic of the basic. I think it can still be improved."

I didn’t understand what he was writing on the blueprint.

It wasn’t because of reason like his letters were messy or the like, but it was too advanced that I couldn’t keep up.

While I was feeling perplexed, Poyopoyo peered onto the blueprint.

"I see, if it’s done here—"

"After that this one is—"

The blueprint was revised.

"Do you think that you can somehow manage?"

Poyopoyo turned around in respond to my words while I was looking from behind.

"Rejoice chicken dickwad! With this the armored vehicle might be able to move!"

"Really!?"

I didn’t think that heavy armored vehicle would be able to move. If it could move it would definitely become reliable.

Damian put his hand on his chin and nodded several times while staring at the blueprint.

"This vehicle is really interesting. With this, horse will become unnecessary won’t it?"

I shrugged.

"As expected that won’t be possible I think. The prerequisite is to be able use magic, so the people who can use it will be absolutely few in number."

The way I said it was bad but, its strong point what that even someone like Clara-san who could only barely use magic would be able to drive it. However, the number of people who could use magic in this world was few.

Damian looked at the revised car and grinned. Surely his interest was fanned up.

"I want to ask one thing though, what is its name?"

I tilted my head.

"Cart."

"Just like that?"

"Yep."

"H~mm"

Damian lost interest to the naming like that, but he was looking like he was having fun seeing the cart’s structure and the like.

Lily-san was watching Damian who was like that with a look of ecstasy.

"Aa, my goshujin-sama is too lovely too today."

With a look like she was going to drool, she was watching Damian who fundamentally wouldn’t do anything except about thing that interested him.

Was it just as I thought? That it wasn’t that these girls were broken, but it was that the thing called automaton was fundamentally strange?

Poyopoyo was looking vexed.

"M, my chicken dickwad is also a hopeless human who doesn’t lose against him just so you know!"

I couldn’t just let that slide.

"Which aspect of me is a hopeless human huh? In the first place, just why are you two competing of which one is more hopeless?

The two of them looked at each other and then they twisted their body while blushing.

"It’s because it’s more rewarding to devote ourselves to hopeless human. I’m waiting for chicken dickwad to be even more hopeless and make me work like slave!"

"A dignified goshujin-sama will be lovely too but, a goshujin-sama who won’t be able to live with me is arousing me. For us automaton, the most wonderful goshujin-sama is one that makes us take care of them."

……I couldn’t understand.

.

—Aria was rubbing her eyes sleepily.

The season was changing to autumn. Recently it was getting colder.

Today she didn’t have any plan to go to private school or dojo.

She was sleeping leisurely from the morning, but she was awoken by the voice that came from the outside.

Lyle and others who went out to the garden were making strange pose since the morning.

"Now, today too we're starting from the usual stance!"

"Stance of Raging Sparrow!"

"Sparrow!"

They expressly brought out balls and placed planks on them where they stood and made pose. The two of them were making pose firmly in the situation where it was difficult to balance their body.

Aria who was sneaking a look at them from the window was terribly…….

"As I thought, they look stupid like that."

A stance of standing on one leg with both hands spread out like wings. The stance was full of opening.

Poyopoyo was smiling seeing the two of them seriously making the stance.

However, Lyle and Shannon were completely serious.

Sometimes they would quarrel with each other, but they also looked like close brother and sister like that.

Aria stretched her body. She had grown slightly taller than before.

Her body was growing even more flexible.

It was the result of coming to Arumsaas and joining a different dojo than Sophia. Her equipments were placed inside her room, but right now other than the spear she was usually using there were also various other things like short spear and knife and the like.

"Even so, it’s good that recently it’s getting easier to go through the day."

Thinking back of how a little while ago she would wake up drenched in sweat, Aria was thankful that temperature had lowered and it became easier to go through the day.

"Perhaps I’ll go out somewhere today."

She finished changing clothes and went out of her room, then she ran into Miranda there.

The atmosphere was awkward. However, Miranda herself didn’t look bothered at all.

"Good morning Aria. You really slept well. If it’s breakfast then there are some on the table."

Her attitude was normal—the same like before.

The wickedness that she sometimes showed didn’t show up at the surface right now.

"You’re making me feel out of sort. Just which of your personality is the real one?"

Miranda chuckled.

The kind Miranda that she met when they were reunited at first.

Miranda who said that she wanted Lyle and disturbed their harmony.

To Aria she looked like a different person.

"It’s not like there is any need for me to quarrel with everyone for the whole day after all. Because that’s tiring. Besides Lyle also hate spiteful things."

"……By that, you mean that if Lyle doesn't care about it you will do various things behind the scene? I myself also hate things like ugly exchange or squabble between woman."

Aria was a type whose hand would move first before her mouth.

She had open-hearted personality and hated the conversation and squabble that were characteristic between women.

Miranda shrugged.

"Of course you are. Aria is candid like a man after all. But, as expected it's not admirable how you're leaving your underwear leaving around the changing room. Lyle was troubled by that."

Aria's face went red.

"Tha, that wasn't me!"

Miranda smirked. Aria denied it, but she recalled several days where she might have done something like that.

(No, no way, so it got seen!)

"If you don't be a bit more modest, Lyle will be appalled by you. Setting that aside, Lyle will challenge the dungeon again in one more month. You should prepare properly."

Aria's face was slightly red, even so she focused on the talk.

"Finally? Are we troubled for money or something?"

They hadn't work for several months.

Although they got a lot of money, this was Arumsaas. Whether it was private school or dojo, it took money to learn something. Aria thought that perhaps soon their financial state would be strained.

(It's because we used a lot of money.)

Aria thought that she had caused an inconvenience for everyone, but it wasn’t like she could enter the dungeon alone. She was a member of a party, so she couldn’t just act by herself.

However Miranda was exasperated.

"Could it be you don’t know?"

"Eh?"

"Lyle, recently he was earning several hundred gold coins."

Aria was shocked hearing that.

"Lies!"

Miranda talked about what Lyle was doing recently while looking a bit happy.

"It’s true. He went to Professor Damian’s place and remodeled the cart together with Clara. You know, that thing that can move by itself."

"Ah, that thing. But, can you earn money with that?"

Recently Aria was also busy that she didn’t really grasp what Lyle and others were doing.

Because of that she didn’t know about Lyle earning a lot of money.

"I think he can make a living with that. Well, the person himself wants to conquer floor B30. It doesn’t look like he want to make that as his main occupation. It’s a bit of a waste but, it’s fine because that’s just like Lyle."

It doesn’t look like he is just playing around, even so with the situation being like this, just what he is coming to Arumsaas for?

That was the doubt that Aria harbored. But she could only laugh hearing Lyle’s recent situation.

"Tha, that guy is also not doing bad huh."

Miranda said that she was in the middle of cleaning, so she parted from Aria after that.

When she was leaving.

"That’s how it is so you should prepare properly. After that……I hope that this time there won’t be anything exasperating again from you, Aria."

Aria stared at the back of Miranda who was provoking her and she made a complicated expression.

"……As I thought, Miranda got a bad personality."

She muttered that and headed to the living room.

"That’s right. I’ve got to double check with Lyle."

And then, she thought to ask regarding their plan in one more month—.

.

—Miranda watched Aria’s back.

(It’s good that she’s thinking to properly check the plan.)

Miranda was curious of what Aria would do after being told that they would head to the dungeon in one more month. She was relieved and returned to her housework.

Sophia was out of the house right now. She would talk with her when she returned.

(I guess I'll pass her if she check with Lyle about the detail at night at the latest.)

Until now everything would be arranged by Lyle or Novem. The two of them would just go along with their decision. Because of that they would neglect checking the plan by their own initiative.

(It's good that there's a bit of result from provoking them to take action.)

Miranda was relieved that the two of them were roused because of her action—.

.

Inside the storehouse.

I was nervous from the morning. Poyopoyo was also looking serious today.

"Chicken dickwad, here."

She handed me a cylinder object that needed to be carried with two arms.

It was the remaining component. This thing that had two spherical glasses the size of a palm embedded on it was the head part that we would attach after this.

Clara-san took off her glasses and wiped her tear with her sleeve.

"So we finally come this far."

We had gone through days of repeating trial and error of remodeling the cart until now, but all of those were for the sake of this day today.

Shannon who joined at the middle tilted her head in front of the armored vehicle.

"Hey, by the way where are you going to attach it?"

It was an armored vehicle without anything peculiar in appearance, but actually the interior was greatly different.

The machines inside that couldn’t be used were taken out and magic tools were installed inside.

The interior was also cleaned so that it could be loaded with baggage.

I carefully held the head part and turned my gaze to the armored vehicle.

The reason we were going to install a head because of the advice from Damian that it would be convenient when we were operating it with magic.

The vehicle’s frame was only giving an unrefined atmosphere. The head part that looked somewhat stupid would soften it with its charm.

Certainly the remodeled cart was also good but, when it was attached with a head like this, it made us felt excessively attached to it.

"……Will it be at the middle as expected?"

Clara-san out a hold on that.

"Isn’t that too simple? Actually, won’t it be better at the center of the ceiling?"

Poyopoyo refused.

"If we put it there, it will be a hindrance when we're placing baggage on there."

Shannon pointed to inside the vehicle.

"It'll be pitiful if the face is outside. Let's place it inside."

When we started to argue, the ancestors inside the Jewel were also similarly in argument.

[It's the head so the position is obviously at the center!]

[I told you already that it'll be a nuisance there!]

[Everyone calm down. Isn't it fine even if we place it inside?]

[It's related to the precision of the handling so it's important!]

[However, it'll be lonely with just a head. As I thought arms will also be necessary won't it?]

[At first I thought it's just a mere box, but now that I look at it, it has a magnificently rugged and manly appearance.]

We and also the ancestors inside the Jewel were making a ruckus.

Amidst that, the only one who was calm was Aria-san.

It seemed that she came to the storehouse because she had a business with me.

"No, if you just need to put it on then anywhere is fine."

I understood that she wasn't interested with this, but as expected her statement that anywhere was fine was unforgivable.

The ancestors inside the Jewel were also enraged.

[The idiot should just shut up!]

[This is important. Why don’t you understand that!?]

[Good grief, I wonder why she won’t understand.]

[Something like this is really important. Someone who isn’t even interested in that speaking out of turn like that……]

[She isn’t involved in this until now so she has no attachment at all.]

[To not understand what is good from this thing, what a hopeless girl.]

The inside of the Jewel was noisy.

Naturally even Poyopoyo couldn’t stay quiet.

"You there, that was rude in front of this crystallization of love between me and chicken dickwad."

Clara-san calmly asserted herself.

"I’m also involved in its creation."

Shannon was also the same.

"I was also helping out!"

Aria-san scratched her head.

Somehow, recently her gesture was becoming like a man…….

"No, if you’re just going to put it on then anywhere is fine. If it’s alright as long as it doesn’t get in the way then it’s alright even if you put it here."

Aria-san took the head part from me and then placed it at the front right side of the armored vehicle.

The person herself wasn’t interested at all and only wanted to finish her business quickly but…….

"……Great"

Rather than placing it at the center, this was somehow better.

Clara-san was also in admiration.

"This is……perhaps sometimes even the opinion of unrelated person cannot be underestimated. It feels like this is better than placing it at the middle."

It was placed at the front part, so it was properly visible when it was looked from the front.

In addition it wasn’t right at the middle, so our eyes were automatically attracted to it.

It also felt like the balance was a bit bad, but how should I say it, it made it better instead!

The ancestors were also flipping their attitude quickly and praised Aria-san.

These guys were really just doing as they pleased.

[This is quite good. Yeah, sometimes even an idiot can be useful.]

[Aria-chan, I’ve believed that you’re a capable child.]

[Not the idle but the right side. That’s certainly good.]

[If you call that spot the safe choice then it’s really the safe choice.]

[The functionality won’t be harmed in that spot, this is actually a really good positioning.]

[It feels like she placed it there because that’s where she can reach but……the positioning is certainly good.]

I turned toward Aria-san and grasped both her hands.

"Thank you Aria-san. Because of you this “Porter” is now finished."

Aria-san was bewildered by the reaction of her surrounding while making an uncomprehending face at my thanks.

"Eh? Tha, that’s alright? Or rather, Porter?"

Yes, until now I was calling it cart, but I noticed.

This thing wasn’t a cart anymore wasn’t it? That crossed my mind.

Perhaps it wasn’t wrong that it was a cart in the broad sense, but it was already a different thing when compared to the same cart.

However, it was also lonely to call it armored vehicle.

It would feel like calling a dog, dog.

That was why I named it.

I took out a book regarding giving a name from inside the luggage.

It was a book I received from Clara-san.

"Actually I thought of the name from reading this."

Clara-san was taken aback and turned around. Shannon was averting her gaze.

Poyopoyo dropped the tool that she brought in order to fix the head in place.

Her face looked like she would burst into tear anytime.

"……Chicken dickwad, what is the meaning of that?"

I tilted my head.

"No, everyone said that name is important so I thought about it seriously."

Poyopoyo swung her twintail until it was disheveled and she yelled.

"Porter! That’s an adorable name! And yet, why am I still Poyopoyo!? Please think about my name too seriously!"

Poyopoyo hugged the armored vehicle that received a proper name ahead of her and cried.

"Porter, I’m glad that you receive a splendid name. My name is Poyopoyo you know? Poyopoyo. I’m envious to you who is given name by chicken dickwad who thought about it seriously that he even used a book as reference."

Everyone was sending glances at me.

This atmosphere that seemed to say "Give her a proper name already" was unpleasant.

I averted my gaze.

"……I, I’ll think of the name after this."

Clara-san was exasperated.

"When you told me that you want a book before, I thought that it would be for Poyopoyo-san."

The atmosphere of the surrounding was criticizing me. Shannon took advantage of it and made a snide remark at me.

"You’re really the worst. If it’s me I’ll be able to think a better name."

However Poyopoyo’s face turned serious here.

"No, rather than receiving a name from you I'll rather be called Poyopoyo."

"Why!?"

Shannon was angry and took the stance of Raging Sparrow, but Aria-san placed her hand on her forehead for some reason.

"No, I don't care anymore. More importantly, we're going to the dungeon in one more month right? How far we'll go?"

I folded my arms.

"One month from now it will be the serious attempt to aim until floor B30. I'm thinking that in two weeks we will try challenging the dungeon once in order to check everyone's teamwork and some minor detail."

Aria-san nodded.

"Two weeks from now you say? I get it. I'll prepare myself but……what're we going to do for the serious attempt? We're going to challenge the dungeon with just us?"

I thought for a bit.

"That'll depend on Porter's test run. As expected I think we will need more helping hand but, I haven't decided how big of the scale we will need."

Chapter 62 – Armored Vehicle

—In a room of an inn.

Three men were gathering there.

Alcohol was placed on the table. Zalsa and Benir were drinking it.

The client Ludhor was sitting on a chair. He was tapping his foot from irritation.

"Oi, you guys have found out their schedule aren't you?"

Benir was drinking alcohol while placing a memo.

"I asked their plan to enter the dungeon from the staff. There are some staffs who doesn't like them, so it's easy to ask the schedule."

Ludhor snatched the paper and confirmed the plan of Lyle's party.

"……So they'll enter the dungeon in one more week. We're going to attack at that time."

Zalsa laughed slightly.

(This damn small fry is getting carried away.)

He ridiculed Ludhor inside his heart, even so his words outside were polite.

"I don't recommend that. Besides we'll also need to prepare, so let's ambush them at their second expedition."

Lyle's party planned to go to floor B10 at the first time.

At the second time it was written that they planned to conquer floor B30.

It seemed the staff asked Lyle thoroughly, so they also obtained the information that Lyle’s party would challenge the boss of floor B30.

Benir drank down the alcohol inside his glass.

"We’ll aim when they’re completely exhausted after working hard collecting incomes. Let’s decide whether to aim when they’re fighting or lying in ambush at that time."

The floor travelling device was located at floor B5 until floor B25.

It would be troublesome if they reached floor B25 and asked help from other adventurers.

Zalsa stared at his clean nails.

They were well cared after and today too they were glinting prettily.

"Preparation is important for this kind of assault. We have to investigate the floor so they won’t be able to run away and lay trap before waiting for the prey to enter. Well, please leave it to us."

Ludhor stood up in front of the two.

"I’ll also prepare. You guys, don’t you dare fail."

Zalsa saw off Ludhor closing the door violently. He then clicked his tongue.

"Damn brat……"

Benir laughed.

"Oi, your true self is coming out."

"Oops, pardon me."

Benir was grinning faintly while watching Zalsa putting up his mask.

"And……what’re we going to do?"

Even Ludhor looked like prey between the two of them.

They were adventurers who were carrying out misdeed daily.

In the first place they never thought of carrying out the request honestly.

"Accident often happen inside the dungeon. There’s no guarantee that brat won’t erase us, and I also got bored already with Arumsaas. I want to rampage with a blast before leaving."

Benir also agreed.

"He is just a second or third son who can’t inherit his house anyway. There’s no need to worry about his house’s reprisal even if we erase him. It seems that Lyle guy has also saved up quite a lot. The request this time is a delicious one."

The two would lay their hand even toward their client. They poured alcohol into their glass and toasted.

"Let’s leave Arumsaas after cleaning up everything."

"We got to earn big for the last one."

The two adventurers laughed—.

.

The place was underground dungeon floor B10.

When we stepped inside, the floor boss wasn’t inside. It seemed it had been exterminated by other adventurers. We walked with Porter at the center and looked across the room of the floor boss.

"……What now?"

The reason everyone was making a perplexed face was because we arrived at floor B10 faster than planned.

Even Novem was holding her staff in bewilderment.

"It’s because Poyopoyo-san mapped the area and Shannon-chan notified us of the threat at the surrounding beforehand. We’re able to reach until this far without any problem."

A box was placed on the ceiling of Porter. Magic stones and other things were stuffed there.

It seemed that the result surpassed even Novem’s imagination.

"Wha, what’ll we do now, Lyle-sama?"

Originally we planned to descend until floor B10 and then returned back to the surface in three days.

However, we arrived at our destination in one day without any problem.

"……I guess we’ll return to floor B9 and camped there. Like this, we’ll return back by tomorrow."

Clara-san got down from Porter.

She got down from the spot that Poyopoyo called “driver’s seat” and told me how the driving sensation was until now.

"Lyle-san, about Porter."

"Was there any problem? If you’re tired from driving I’ll switch with you."

Clara-san shook her head at my suggestion and answered.

"It’s strange. The driving sensation is just too easy. It’s easier than the remodeled cart from before, is that possible?"

I looked at Porter.

"Ah, you mean that. Oi, Poyopoyo."

When I called Poyopoyo, she brought out a box from inside the vehicle.

Clara-san tilted her head, then she was surprised seeing the inside of the box.

The box itself was a magic tool.

And then, shining inside it was a yellow-green gem peridot—a rare gem that was said to be a magic ore that contained mana inside.

"You possess a magic ore?"

"We obtained it before coming to Arumsaas. We also considered using magic stone or rare metal but, if we’re going to do that anyway then using this would be better, that’s what we thought."

Porter was too heavy that it needed reinforcement to move it.

Magic ore was the best way to obtain the energy for that.

"It’ll be expensive to buy it. We have one so we used that."

Clara-san put her hand on her forehead as though she was dizzy.

"I’m surprised that you have something like this. Lyle-san, you’re really a mysterious person."

Is that so? Certainly I was ignorant of the ways of the world but, recently I had gotten a bit better…….

Aria-san and Sophia-san were approaching while we were deep in talk.

"Lyle, what’re we going to do now?"

"If possible please decide it quickly."

I told Poyopoyo to put back the box and looked at Novem.

Novem was making a troubled face, but she suggested to achieve our original objective.

"We haven’t prepare to advance further than this, how about we return for now and camped?"

I scratched my head.

"You’re right. Let’s stay the night before returning tomorrow."

Aria-san shrugged.

"Is that fine even though we planned to stay for two nights? I think we’ll be able to earn a bit more money if we stay for two nights."

I looked at Porter.

Miranda-san was looking after Shannon who went outside.

She wasn’t feeling well from witnessing battle against monster and dismantling materials from their body.

"Shannon isn’t feeling well, besides even if we don’t go that far the test driving has gone well. Let’s return tomorrow."

Things went better than expected, to a degree that it shocked me thinking whether this was alright.

This was greatly different from before.

.

Around the time it became night at the surface.

We were camping at floor B9.

Sleeper’s breathing could be heard from the surrounding. I was sitting together with Aria-san as lookout, a lantern between us.

There was friction between us since I was forbidden from using Arts, but today there wasn’t anything like that.

I didn’t know what would be good topic to talk about, but today our conversation was flowing naturally.

"So even scouting is divided into various types."

A lot of Aria-san’s talk was related to her dojo.

It seemed these several months she were going to the dojo almost every day to polish her skill.

"It’s amazing. You can check the situation of the area by touching the floor or wall. There’re also many types of trap that I have to memorize."

At the dojo she was scolded, praised, and like that she finally felt the effect of her training in real battle.

I got the impression that she was having fun with that.

"You didn’t go to the same place with Sophia-san?"

Aria-san answered awkwardly at my simple question.

"……It’s a bit unsuited for me. How should I say it, the mood at her dojo is impossible for me."

Aria-san learned various new things, in contrast it seemed Sophia-san who was sleeping right now was fundamentally improving herself as vanguard.

"Rather than that, what about Lyle?"

"At morning I would move my body with Poyopoyo, and then from there I would tinker with the cart the whole time. After that I would go to the library or Damian’s place."

Aria-san glanced at the sleeping Clara-san.

"……It seems there is rumor about you and Clara-san but, how is it actually is?"

"Clara-san? No, there isn’t anything like that. I’m in good terms with her but, there isn’t anything more than that. She is really a great help."

Aria-san looked down slightly.

"I, I see."

"She is someone I want to have as party member but, it looks like she loves the library and I don’t know if she will leave Arumsaas to join us."

From Clara-san’s point of view, Arumsaas was a place that suited her.

The library that was called as the greatest in the continent was big.

"……It will be great if she will come with us."

There was one voice that agreed with my muttering.

It was the Third.

[Clara-chan is really desirable. I recommend her. Lyle, seduce her to join your party just like usual. Like that you will be able to read book everyday!]

……This guy, just what kind of person I was in his mind?

I wished that he wouldn’t speak like I would seduce anyone without caring who they were.

.

Three days later.

I who returned to the surface brought Novem to go shopping.

We arranged for the necessary water and food for aiming to floor B30.

We also purchased things like consumable goods.

We were only heading to the shops that we used before this, but it was weighing my mind that recently I wasn’t talking with Novem.

Because of that I went out alone with her but……I looked around.

"……Why are they laughing at me?"

Not just our fellow adventurers, even the citizens of Arumsaas were laughing at me.

It seemed that Novem had been listening to the rumors from going shopping and the like on a routine basis. She averted her gaze.

"That’s, Lyle-sama failed inside the dungeon some time ago, and recently you weren’t doing anything as adventurer so……"

I was told, that our party conquered floor B40 in the blink of eye after getting acquainted with Damian, but without Damian I continued to fail. It seemed they thought of me as adventurer without any competency.

"That kind of rumor is spreading?"

Novem nodded, even so it seemed she was slightly feeling that something was out of place.

"I’m hearing about this rumor from recently. That kind of rumor has been going on even before but, they weren’t this horrible."

It seemed that the rumors were worsening recently, but even before that there were already various bad rumors about me spreading.

"That’s horrible."

Then, the Second’s voice came from inside the Jewel.

[……Now then, I wonder about that.]

The Sixth replied to the worried Second.

[Let’s watch the situation for now.]

I couldn’t understand the two’s conversation. Then Novem turned her gaze toward a crowd.

I also followed Novem’s gaze.

There wasn’t anything that felt particularly strange.

"What’s wrong?"

"I thought we were watched but, it might be just my imagination."

I immediately grasped the Jewel, but there wasn’t any reply. The ancestors were staying silent.

……Just what was going on?

Novem turned a serious expression toward me.

"It might be better to be slightly on guard. Let’s tell everyone to not go out alone as much as possible."

I could only reply "Yeah".

Until now I had Arts, so I could immediately detect anyone with ill will.

But, right now I couldn’t sense anything even if there was someone with ill will nearby.

"It’s amazing that you can feel it, Novem."

I honestly thought that Novem was amazing.

"It’s something like an instinct. Besides they’re following us unnaturally so I noticed them."

……I felt slightly ashamed to not notice that.

.

The next day.

I was having lunch together with Nurx-san.

He was an adventurer that I was acquainted with at Arumsaas. We were getting along well.

I consulted with him about the matter of being followed.

"……Perhaps, they’re targeting the girls in your party?"

"Novem and others?"

Nurx-san folded her arms and then made a serious expression.

"People will be jealous to a party with one man and multiple women after all. Especially when it comes to adventurers who many of them are rough people, there’re also many shoddy people among them."

Certainly, the possibility that Novem and others were targeted was high.

Thinking carefully, there were only beautiful girls around me.

Shannon and Poyopoyo were out of question but, everyone else was pretty.

"Will it be better for us to be careful?"

"It'll be better for your party to not do anything alone. You guys also have to not forget paying attention to the surrounding."

I slowly nodded.

Nurx-san seemed to feel relieved at my attitude and changed the topic.

"More importantly, how is it going with your comrades?"

"It's better than before but, I feel that there is still gap between them as usual."

Nurx-san who was worried for me sent me a sympathetic look.

"That's awful. Though I think it will be great if they can be more understanding."

Nurx-san was endeavoring to treat all of her party members equally as their comrade so that the peace of the party wasn't disturbed.

And what he was doing was working well, so I was really envious of him.

"It seems that your party will be doing a big job after this, so perhaps it'll be better if you have a talk with them beforehand. If you convey your feeling there, surely everyone will understand."

Seeing Nurx-san's smile made me motivated.

"You're right! I'll make it a success this time for sure!"

I had been acquainted with a really reliable person.

The Sixth was grumbling complaints.

[I wouldn’t have any hardship if everything can be solved with just talking. I was……I was!]

The Fifth spoke coldly.

[You only reaped what you sow, so just shut up.]

The Sixth who was scared of his wife seemed to be hopelessly jealous toward Nurx-san’s happiness. Just what kind of married life he was going through?

While I was talking with Nurx-san, a woman wearing glasses called out to him.

"Gee~z, Nurx, so you’re in this kind of place."

She had large breasts and wearing academy uniform.

She was Nurx-san’s new party member who he encountered at Arumsaas.

"Oops, it’s already this time. Lyle-kun, I’ll take my leave."

"Thank you very much for listening to me."

I thanked him and left the restaurant. Nurx-san’s comrades were waiting outside.

They were getting along well with each other as usual. Seeing that I imagined if my party could also be like this.

"Yosh, I’ll also do my best!"

Before the big job, I resolved myself to make my comrades to get along better with each other.

.

"Hmm, I didn’t really hear that just now, Lyle. What did you say again?"

I was quailing in front of the smiling Miranda-san.

The house of Circry sisters. Coincidentally there were only the two of us here so I called out to her.

Before, I failed when making suggestion for everyone to get along well when all of them were present, so this time I went around talking to them one by one.

However, it was suddenly a formidable enemy from the first person.

"No, that……I’m thinking that it will great if Miranda-san can get along better with everyone."

I was unable to look straight at Miranda-san’s face. My gaze wandered around and my voice was getting smaller.

Voices laughing at me came from inside the Jewel.

[Lyle, speak up more firmly!]

[Lyle, that’s pathetic!]

[You should be more imposing.]

[That’s right. The beginning is important at this kind of thing.]

[Lyle, she’s still better than my wife. Do your best!]

[What happened with your spirit at the beginning? Do your best Lyle.]

Just from the words along it sounded like they were giving encouragement, but everyone’s voice was filled with laughter.

They were having fun watching me.

Miranda-san shrugged.

"I’m joking Lyle. However, I’m sorry but in my personal opinion, what you’re asking is impossible."

She told me that it was impossible for everyone to get along in our party.

"N, no, before this everyone got along."

"That’s not what I mean. I intend to do as Lyle wish, but I’ll refuse if it won’t be something good for Lyle."

She would do it if that was what I wished? I mustered my courage.

"Then, get along with everyone!"

"What was that? Can you say it one more time for me?"

Miranda-san made a scary smile and grabbed my shoulders.

"I’m sorry. I didn’t manage to catch your words just now."

"……It’s nothing."

The Sixth talked with a slightly sad voice.

[Milleia’s great-granddaughter is scary. Why did she grow to be this kind of woman?]

The Seventh mumbled back.

[Because she is aunt’s great-granddaughter?]

Miranda-san chuckled.

"If Lyle seriously wish for it then I will abide by it anytime. That’s if you’re seriously thinking it by yourself."

Miranda-san said that and left me.

I looked at Miranda-san’s back and my shoulders dropped.

"Even though we’re going to enter the dungeon tomorrow, will it be fine like this?"

My anxiety kept getting stronger.

.

—In the middle of night.

A group of adventurer was sneaking in the darkness.

The senior Benir was leading them.

He clicked his tongue seeing Ludhor and other students following behind them.

"I wish they won’t move without a care like that."

Zalsa who was walking beside him was exasperated. A thin sword specialized for thrusting was hanging on his waist.

It was a sword that not many adventurer used, but Zalsa used nothing but rapier.

"Students are bunches with naïve thinking. It’s useless to think about it."

Benir and others entered the dungeon before Lyle’s party came.

Ambushing or attacking.

The choice would depend on the situation of Lyle’s party.

Benir stroked his beard.

"Even though Damian was with them, those guys conquered floor B40 before this. It’s dangerous to underestimate them. Besides that strange box is also concerning."

"You mean the carriage without horse? If the story is true than I want to obtain it."

Then an irritated voice came from behind.

It was Ludhor.

"You guys, be a bit more serious."

The two of them scowled outside of Ludhor’s view, but it wouldn’t be a good idea to quarrel right now.

"Pardon our rudeness. By the way, isn’t your group’s number too few?"

There were only ten of them even including Ludhor.

Several of them were students. The rest were wearing hood that hid their face.

They seemed to be baggage carrier.

"There’s no need for you guys to worry about that. More importantly, absolutely don’t let them get away. Anyone other than Miranda is unneeded."

Benir and Zalsa, and then the other adventurers were irritated at Ludhor’s attitude.

Benir responded.

"Just leave it to us. We’re experienced in this."

"I hope that’s true."

Ludhor and others, the group that was targeting Lyle entered the dungeon—.

.

The entrance of Arumsaas’s underground dungeon.

We rode on Porter and entered the dungeon.

I put my hand on Shannon’s head.

"Come on, search for the enemy properly."

On the driver’s seat there were Clara-san, Poyopoyo, and then me and Shannon. The place was really cramped.

Shannon looked sleepy from waking up early in the morning. She brushed away my hand.

"Shut up. I just need to do it right?"

Shannon replied with a yawn. I thought that this girl was lacking the sense of tension.

Clara-san sat on the driver’s seat while using magic. Then Porter’s huge body moved forward.

We were protected by thick armor.

Poyopoyo discovered enemy at the front.

"Muh! From the front bat monsters are approa—"

Clara-san drove forward expressionlessly and sent the rushing large bats flying.

Poyopoyo looked slightly troubled.

"……Please let me speak it till the end."

Clara-san was also troubled.

"Eh? I was told to keep going while ignoring the monsters until floor B10 though."

It would take time to fight monster from the beginning and then collecting their magic stone and materials.

In addition it would increase our cargo.

The magic stone and the material that could be obtained her had low price, so we ignored them.

I looked at Shannon.

Yesterday she was excited and couldn’t sleep. She was sleeping on the passenger seat with her mouth drooling.

I lightly hit Shannon’s head with my palm.

"Hyai!"

Shannon woke up and looked around.

And then she awkwardly wiped her drool while,

"I, I dhidh’t hlep"

She couldn’t even speak properly.

"You, the next time you sleep I’ll call Miranda-san."

Shannon opposed when I said that.

"You coward, threatening to tell Onee-sama like that! This coward gigolo bastard!"

"Could it be you’re trying to make the nickname gigolo bastard to stick on me? That’s unfortunate. I’m not gigolo anymore. I’m earning money by myself, and I’m even paying Miranda-san my cost of living. Rather isn’t it you who are like gigolo?"

Shannon was angry and struggled inside the cramped space. Clara-san sighed.

"Rather than that I wish you will decide the route already."

.

—In the back of Porter.

Novem, Aria, Sophia, Miranda.

The four were sitting silently.

They were sitting on benches that faced each other.

In this situation they had to see each other’s face even if they didn’t want. The four of them were keeping silent.

From the front they could hear Lyle and Shannon quarreling, and sometimes Clara’s troubled voice.

Even though they called it big, if people rode in a space that was loaded with baggage then the space would be limited. The four of them were sitting face to face in that limited space for several hours.

Novem raised a topic.

"It’s rare that all four of us can be face to face like this, how about we talk?"

Aria was sending glances at Miranda’s face.

"I don’t mind but, what’re we going to talk about? Something like Sophia’s change into amazoness?"

Sophia stood up.

"Wait, who are you calling amazoness! Could it be, you're making fun of everyone in the dojo!? All of them are all good people!"

Certainly they were all good people, but it was a fact that the women of the dojo were called amazoness on the street.

Miranda chuckled.

"Certainly her skin exposure is increasing recently. She was sleeping in her underwear at summer and got seen by Lyle."

Aria laughed.

"Hear that! Recently you were too defenseless!"

Novem turned a smile at Aria.

"Aria-san is also the same. Lyle-sama put back the towel blanket that you kicked away on you several times. It was a bit unseemly to open your legs like that."

Aria hid her face with both her hands and went red until her ears.

Sophia retorted back.

"Aria is more terrible than me isn't it!? I, in the first place peeking at girls sleeping, that's……"

Miranda-san was exasperated.

"If you sleep on the sofa at the living room then anyone will see. It was because you were tired that you weren't awakened."

Sophia went red until her ears in embarrassment and shrunk into herself on her seat.

Miranda was having fun looking at the two of them like that. Novem said to her.

"By the way Miranda-san. You aren't troubling Lyle-sama are you?"

Miranda smiled, but it was a provoking smile.

"I've no intention of troubling him. I believe that this is also for Lyle's sake."

"Is that perhaps a self-righteousness? Isn't it for your own sake rather than for Lyle-sama's sake?"

The two of them were smiling, but Aria and Sophia were in discomfort.

Miranda retorted back to Novem.

"It's you who is self-righteous. In the first place why—"

But, Porter suddenly stopped in the middle and the talk was interrupted.

Aria couldn't endure the atmosphere and raised her voice.

"Wha, what happened!?"

If something happened then she wouldn't need to stay in this place. She was even feeling such joyous mood.

The rear door opened.

Poyopoyo was standing there.

She was holding a large hammer on her shoulder. It was slightly dirty with blood.

"My apologies. A slightly big monster appeared so we took it down. We will only recover the magic stone so we wanted some help

but……it seems everyone is having fun here. Everyone, please wait on standby here."

Poyopoyo who guessed that the mood was bad only said that and closed the door.

Voices came from outside.

[Eh, where’s everyone?]

[It looks like they are having fun talking, so I left them to it. It’s a conversation between women. Chicken dickwad, you mustn’t peek okay?]

[No one’s going to peek. Well, fine. We’ll take care of it with you and me.]

Lyle and others seemed to finish dealing with the monster, after a while Porter started moving once more.

However, this time there was no one who opened their mouth.

They only passed the time silently—.

.

I was thinking.

"My Porter is too strong."

Porter was advancing through the passage inside the dungeon, but against average monsters they would be blown away.

Even large monster would be sent flying easily. And then Porter would run over it and advance forward.

It felt as though it was designed from the start to be able to advance through any kind of bad road. Whether it was its rugged design or tough armor, there wasn’t any decoration to it.

Clara-san slightly raised her hand.

"Err, I was also involved in its making."

Poyopoyo was enraged.

"Please wait! It’s this Poyopoyo who finished the most of it! The mother of this child is me!"

Shannon was sitting on the passenger’s seat and eating sweets.

"Who cares about that. More importantly there is a group of monster lying in ambush at the front."

Poyopoyo thrust her fist forward.

"Mumuh! There are only small ones there. We’re bulldozing through here!"

Clara-san was apathetic.

"Then I’m driving forward."

The thing that was called “engine” according to Poyopoyo roared and Porter accelerated. The monsters at the front were sent flying.

It became really easy with just Porter here.

"Will this be alright in regard to my task?"

I was worried if the ancestors would complain about Porter, but then cheers came from inside the Jewel.

[That’s awesome, Porterrrr!]

[I also want one of this!]

[If we can mass produce Porter, perhaps this will cause a revolution in the world.]

[If only we had this thing in my era……]

[What toughness! This is what a man’s ride is!]

[I also want to try driving it.]

……It seemed I was too worried. They sounded like they were having fun.

I shook my head. Then Aria-san showed her face from the rear.

"Hey, what floor we’re in right now? I lost track of it with only time passing."

The shaking inside Porter was light.

It would cause our butt to hurt from sitting for many hours inside a normal horse carriage, and yet it didn’t happen with Porter.

But, the trip was too smooth that the four riding in the rear didn’t have anything to do.

I turned my gaze to Poyopoyo. She guessed what I wanted to say with just that.

"We have arrived at floor B16. At the surface right now it’s slightly before 6 o’clock in the evening. I believe there won’t be any problem starting to prepare the camp right now."

There were a lot of places where this girl was troubling, but she was reliable for something like this.

"Floor B16 in one day. Like this, will we get any turn?"

It couldn’t be helped that Aria-san was worried.

In the first place, Porter was just too amazing, surpassing our imagination.

"As expected I think our pace will drop from floor B20 ahead."

Shannon shrieked at that time.

"Gyaaaa!"

She hugged me and grabbed my clothes with her hands that were dirty with sweets.

When everyone turned their gaze to the front where Shannon was looking, there was a monster crawling on the wall to escape from Porter.

It was insect type that wasn't too dangerous, but Shannon was really weak against bug.

I tore off Shannon who was hugging me from feeling really scared.

"Get a hold of yourself. Why did you scream huh?"

Shannon was tearful.

"That was scary mon!"

She spoke cutely using 'mon!', but it didn't affect my heart at all.

"Well, fine. More importantly search for a place where we can camp."

"……You, aren't you acting cold at just me?"

Shannon glared at me, so I replied with a smile.

"Obviously. I hate yo—"

"Sei-!"

Shannon's fist that was launched with the twist of her waist backing it sunk into my stomach.

"Yo, you……"

"Your smile just now was irritating."

Shannon brushed up her light violet hair and laughed seeing me crouching down.

As expected from the result of Poyopoyo’s teaching, it was really painful.

Chapter 63 – Fruits of Labor

Floor B18.

We advanced until there and found a room without any monster before starting to prepare the camp.

The entrance of the room was narrow so Porter couldn't enter inside.

We parked it in front of the entrance as wall to prevent monster's infiltration, then we moved separately based on our role inside the dungeon's room. Aria-san was taking out foldable tables and chairs from the baggage.

「Hey, is it alright to put them here?」

Sophia-san was assembling the toilet together with Clara-san.

「The construction is really secure isn't it?」

「Poyopoyo-san prepared this. How should I say it, she created various convenient tools for us.」

After placing lanterns and the preparation of the camping was progressing, Poyopoyo began preparing dinner.

「Elaborate food cannot be created? That's just an excuse! This Poyopoyo for chicken dickwad's sake──」

「Poyopoyo, you're noisy. Cut the ingredients quickly.」

Miranda-san was preparing the ingredients quickly. Novem was also taking out things like blanket.

「It's nice that we can load the baggage like this, making it easier.」

Like this everyone was moving in order to prepare the camp but…….

「You're really like a gigolo huh.」

「You're saying that to me?」

Shannon and I were sitting on a wooden crate.

It wasn't like we were ditching our work, it was a rest period for me and Shannon.

Shannon would search the enemy using her eyes, and I had entered combat several times.

When the preparation was over Clara-san also would take a rest.

……I wasn't particularly doing any work. I was in the middle of my break. Then Novem approached with a smile.

「Lyle-sama, Shannon-chan. Both of you please wipe yourself first with hot water. After dinner please brush your teeth and sleep okay?」

Both I and Shannon replied 「Ye~s」 and stood up.

Shannon glared at me.

「Don't peep.」

I snorted.

「What will I peep from you? Do you have anything worth seeing?」

Shannon's face was bright red and punched with her fist, so I took a step back and brushed it with my hand. Shannon got irritated by that and kicked.

Shannon could only swing around her hand if her head was held in place a little while ago, but right now she was moving quite well.

「Oh, you want to have a go? Our score until now is my flawless victory you know?」

Shannon yelled.

「Ukyaaaa! Don’t get conceited when you’re just a gigolo leeching off Onee-sama! Today is the day I deal with you for sure!」

Shannon took the Stance of Raging Sparrow.

This girl was serious.

I also took the Stance of Raging Sparrow in opposition.

「Don’t underestimate me. I’m stronger than you!」

Then Aria-san clapped her hands.

「There, don’t play around and wipe your body quickly.」

Aria-san previously didn’t know what to do when camping and only moved around in confusion, but now she was doing her work quickly.

I and Shannon replied 「Ye, yes」 and went to receive the hot water t wipe our body.

.

The next day.

We advanced until floor B21 and stood on alert around Porter.

Within the darkness with the lighting turned off, there was footstep near me.

When I turned my face over there anxiously, I found Aria-san returning from her scouting.

「Don’t be that surprised.」

「No, that’s because you suddenly showed up.」

Aria-san’s Art was acceleration. An Art that drastically increased her speed temporarily. She approached the enemy using that, gathered information, and then quickly returned.

It seemed that the person herself still couldn’t accept it, even so I didn’t notice her until she approached near.

Aria-san told us about the information that she saw.

「There are three lizardmen ahead from here. They’re inside a room but, they aren’t relaxing so if we pass through nearby they will come out. One of them is carrying a torch.」

We nodded.

Miranda-san praised her.

「Oh, that’s amazing work.」

Aria-san didn’t honestly feel happy.

「Thanks. Lyle, what’re we going to do? It looks like there is no monster in this area, should we launch surprise attack with everyone?」

When I was about to nod in agreement because that was the safest way, Sophia-san shouldered her battle axe.

「Can you leave it to me?」

Her voice was really serious. I couldn’t really see her face because it was dark, but I realized that she was serious just from her voice.

Lizardman was a lizard demi-human. Its size easily surpassed adult male, in addition its physical strength was several times greater than human. It was a troublesome monster that wielded large axe or spear.

However, Sophia-san was motivated to do it alone.

Miranda-san talked to me.

「……It might be good for Sophia to be the vanguard with the rest acting as support. As expected its irresponsible to make her attack alone.」

Sophia-san agreed.

「I'm alright with that.」

Sophia-san said that and started walking. I and Miranda-san followed behind her as support and moved until the room with lizardmen inside.

When we arrived at the entrance of the room, the lizardmen looked at each other looking as though they were talking.

I nodded when Sophia-san finished preparing.

Sophia-san immediately entered inside from the entrance and threw the battle axe she was carrying.

「Sophia-san!?」

I almost jumped forward in surprise, but Miranda-san caught my shoulder.

「Wait. That girl is an idiot, but she isn't just a simple idiot. Let's watch the situation for a bit more.」

The battle axe rotated and brought down a single lizardman. Without stopping it stabbed into the wall.

The lizardman with a torch opened its large mouth and let out a loud voice, then the other lizardman approached Sophia-san.

Sophia-san thrust her right hand to the side.

「──Come」

Then, the battle axe that was stabbed on the wall came out from the wall as though it was being forcefully pulled and rotated.

When the lizardman turned around, the battle axe was approaching right before its eyes.

Blood splashed and the battle axe returned to Sophia-san's right hand. When she grasped back the rotating battle axe into her right hand, Sophia-san immediately took a stance.

The only remaining lizardman threw away its torch and approached Sophia-san.

The lizardman's axe and Sophia-san's battle axe clashed and sparks scattered.

But, the lizardman's posture was crumbling each time they exchanged two or three blows.

Sophia-san had smaller body, and yet the lizardman was the one getting overpowered.

The Fifth raised his voice inside the Jewel.

『Hee, not bad. Did the battle axe come back because she turned it into magic tool? Besides, that Sophia has also gotten better with her use of her Art.』

The Sixth was also impressed.

『The battle axe is lightened when it's lifted up, and weighted when it swing down. Well, she has Art to control weight, so anyone will have that kind of idea to use it but……a lot of training will be necessary for her to be able to do that skillfully.』

She obtained a magic tool and polished her own Art.

It was simple, but she had undoubtedly gotten stronger because of that.

I thought that it was really like the serious Sophia-san.

I created a light source inside the room and brightened the area.

Sophia-san was jumping and swinging down her battle axe at that timing.

Behind me Miranda-san put away her knife and whistled seeing the power that literally bisected the lizardman into two halves of right and left with one attack.

I spontaneously applaused. The Third spoke shortly inside the Jewel.

『Well done.』

He only praised shortly without any teasing.

.

Like this the two of them had grown greatly but…….

I noticed a serious problem here. Actually I noticed it when we passed through floor B25, but I stayed quiet until we arrived at floor B29.

Aria-san would scout, and then if we launched a preemptive strike, Sophia-san would perfectly carry out her job as the vanguard.

If Novem burned the monsters using her magic, Miranda-san would respond depending on the situation and covered up any hole.

Poyopoyo would play an active role as both combat force or rear support. Clara-san also showed her real ability by driving Porter or giving support.

Shannon too, although she was only using her eyes, she was doing her best as a member of the party.

Like that we finally reached the time when we were going to challenge the floor boss at floor B30. The Fourth's voice came from inside the Jewel.

『……Lyle, is it just my imagination that you haven't really done anything until here?』

Tomorrow it'll finally be the battle against the floor boss!

While the party was getting high spirited in preparation of that, I noticed that I alone hadn't really been doing anything. I completely realized.

The Third talked to me with a voice that sounded really worried.

『I don't want to say it but, Lyle right now is really a gigolo. You make the women around you work while not doing anything yourself. Well, that might be a leader's quality but, as expected this is bad.』

I called to Novem in order to help with everyone who was preparing the camp.

「Novem! I'll help out too!」

When I raised my voice and approached, Novem tilted her head adorably.

But, Novem didn't understand my feeling.

「Lyle-sama, please rest early for tomorrow. We will take care of this.」

She said that and returned to her work.

I looked around.

Everyone had become proficient, but in the first place there was nothing that I could help with.

While I was looking around in a dither, my eyes caught Shannon sitting alone on a wooden box looking at me.

That Shannon was looking at me and her mouth widened into a grin like a crescent moon.

This girl, she was reading my heart!

「……puh」

When Shannon snickered, anger welled up inside me.

I was alright to get reprimanded by someone else. I'd reflect on myself if I got scolded.

But, getting laughed by her was the only thing that I couldn't endure.

Shannon too seemed to notice my anger. We both glared at each other silently. Like that, when we were going to take the same stance as fellow disciple of the same style, Shannon's gaze turned toward a corner of the room.

「Hey, gigolo bastard.」

「Don't call me gigolo bastard. What?」

Shannon pointed at a direction. A small fly was flying there.

The Second spoke inside the Jewel.

『Shannon doesn't get scared? Even so, is there any normal bug inside a dungeon?』

I immediately took out my short sword and threw it in respond to the Second's words.

The sword didn't hit the small insect flying in the air, but everyone focused on me seeing I was holding a weapon.

Novem took out her staff and lifted it. She fired several fire balls and burned the insect.

When it was gone, I immediately looked at Shannon.

「What was the insect just now?」

Shannon tilted her head while speaking.

「That wasn't insect. It was something like a lump of mana imitating an insect. I saw a thin string, so perhaps it was connected to somewhere?」

Miranda-san came running.

「……Shannon, where was that string connected to?」

Shannon took a step backward seeing Miranda-san's serious expression while replying.

「O, outside the room. But, it was too far away I didn't know the exact location.」

The Fourth explained.

『An insect made from mana. Now that she mentioned it, I heard there is that kind of thing among the Arts for scouting and monitoring. We're being watched.』

I grasped the Jewel. The Third replied calmly.

『Lyle, I understand your feeling but that's no good. We won't allow you to use the Arts.』

I wondered if I could use the ancestors' Arts for this kind of situation, but they wouldn't allow it.

There was someone watching us. I wanted to think that it was just someone curious, but I couldn't be careless.

Sophia-san looked around.

「Wa, was there something?」

Aria-san was also bewildered.

「I don't know. Lyle suddenly took out his weapon, so I thought that he was going to quarrel with Shannon-chan again.」

As expected even I wouldn't point my weapon at Shannon.

Clara-san fixed the position of her glasses.

「Recently the case of people in this trade getting attacked is increasing. I never imagined that they will come until this deep. I heard that normally they will attack at upper level.」

Novem turned a serious gaze at me.

「Lyle-sama, I believe this is an emergency situation. Will you use your Arts?」

I was troubled, but the ancestors absolutely wouldn't allow it.

「……I won't use them.」

Miranda-san looked at me expressionlessly.

「Is that alright? These are people who intentionally come to place with few people like this. Perhaps they're waiting for a chance to target us.」

Even I wanted to lift the ban of the use of Arts and obtained the enemy information ahead.

However, it wasn't allowed. The Third said.

『We won't allow the use of Arts until you defeat the floor boss of floor B30. Lyle, try to think about it.』

Just what were they saying in this condition where we might be targeted? I was irritated dealing with the ancestors and tightly grasped the Jewel.

「I'll think for a bit so let me be alone.」

I said that to Novem and Miranda-san then got into Porter.

.

The room of round table inside the Jewel.

I put both my hands on the round table and seriously begged in front of the sitting ancestors.

「Please let me use Arts. I think this isn't the time to talk about task or anything.」

The Second answered immediately toward my request.

『No. Manage it somehow by yourself for something like this.』

「Something like this? We're being targeted by fellow adventurers here!」

The Fourth apathetically pointed out my blunders expressionlessly in respond to my plea.

『You already noticed the possibility of being targeted since from before entering the dungeon didn't you? We won't let you say that you didn't think that the opponent would act. It's also the leader's role to think about this kind of possibility. It's not admirable to shelve up your own blunder like that.』

I flinched at the attitude of the ancestors. The Third laughed slightly seeing that.

『It would be better to not talk at all from the beginning if you're going to draw back just from this much. Well, as expected it'll be appalling too to just leave this alone. Let us give you an advice here.』

After the Third said that they would give advice, the Sixth folded his arms and smiled. But his smile was different from usual. It was a warlike──a scary smile.

『There's also the possibility that they're just peeking from curiosity. If that's the case then you don't need to feel bothered at all. But, the problem is in case this is someone searching for prey. Or in the second case that they're targeting Lyle and others.』

If it was the former case, then there was a possibility that the other side would change their target now that we noticed them.

But, if it was the latter case──what would they do if they thought that we noticed them?

The Seventh talked indifferently.

『They'll attack forcefully. Or perhaps they'll withdraw and wait for the next change. It's also possible they might try something at the surface, but that won't be amusing. Don't you think so, Lyle?』

The Seventh who hated adventurer didn't seem amused that we were being targeted.

Seeing me not saying anything, the Third placed his hands behind his neck and tilted his head.

『This kind of people is persistent. They'll harass other people like it's nothing. Can you allow your comrades to live in fear for the sake of people like that?』

Of course it wasn't amusing. Of course it was unforgivable.

The ancestors were pressuring me.

The Fourth who I thought to be relatively moderate among the ancestors looked at me with his glasses glinting eerily.

『Lyle, the situation is already at its final phase. Are you going to defeat them, or getting defeated……that's the situation.』

The Fifth was expressionless.

『A battle isn't something that start suddenly. It'll be different if someone suddenly pick a fight with you, but there were various things before the situation became like this. Let's see, you saved adventurers who were attacked by fellow adventurers. That was a good thing. But, you failed to notice. You underestimated the fact that there are malicious bunch inside the dungeon.』

The Sixth erased his smile.

『You also underestimated the fact that you were being followed. Did you think light of it, that there is no way they will go until this far? That's no good. Completely no good.』

The Third swept back his blonde hair with his hand and showed his forehead.

Unlike the usual, there was dreadfulness in the Third's expression.

He was a person who left his name in the history of Bahnseim.

I often forgot that from my impression of him being usually easygoing, but he was a person who had fought a lot more than someone like me.

『This is Lyle's blunder. Before you rely on us, you should regret your own worthlessness. Originally you should increase the number of your comrades and investigate the enemy.』

Recently I obtained a lot of money throughout the process of developing Porter.

It made me stood out.

Starting from Novem, my comrades were all beautiful girls……there were a lot of things that would make us getting targeted.

The Fifth joined his fingers on the round table.

『It'll only be a waste of time just blaming Lyle. It's important how fast you move in this kind of situation. Also Lyle……can you, kill human?』

The Fifth's gaze didn't look like he was joking.

I strongly clenched the cloth on my chest.

It wasn't like I forgot but, these people were feudal lord──people who had fought humans for real.

The Second said.

『Well, leave it to us. Something like this is our specialty.』

The Third was showing an expression that was different from usual.

『In that case I'm curious about the opponent's movement.』

The Fourth's glasses shined ominously.

『Are they going to change their plan or not now that they've been found out……they have that convenient Art, surely until now they rarely got found out.』

The Fifth lowered his gaze.

『……They aren't targeting prey here. You have to teach them that they're chasing after a ferocious beast.』

I didn't know whether the Sixth was delighted or angry.

『If they were spying just out of curiosity, give them the suitable punishment! If they're picking a fight, they can't complain even if we hit them back.』

The Seventh hid his lips with his clasped hand, but I could feel that he was smiling.

『Lyle, don't feel any reservation toward these fineds. There isn't any need of that. Let's teach them who are they picking a fight with.』

Why were they this reliable only at this kind of time?

.

──The group of adventurers led by Zalsa was panicked.

Underground dungeon's floor B27.

In front of the slanted road that was continuing to floor B28, Zalsa talked with a rough voice that was different from his usual behavior toward his comrade.

「They noticeeed? You asshole, what do you mean by that!」

His comrade who had convenient Art for scouting and the like crouched while apologizing.

「Forgive me Zalsa-san! One girl noticed and then knife and flame hit. I couldn't avoid them! I never thought that they would notice that quickly!」

The adventurer who was kicked became Zalsa's comrade due to his talent.

He would create insect using his Art and sent it to gather information.

He became the eye and ear of Zalsa's party using that information gathering ability.

Because he rarely failed until now, it made Zalsa became unable to suppress his irritation.

「This time there are also Benir and that shitty brat! If I bungled up, they'll laugh at me. You should know that this stupid idiot!」

His comrades held back Zalsa.

「Calm down Zalsa!」

「That's right. Even like that they're someone who has conquered floor B40. It's not strange that they can do at least this much.」

「Now that it's like this, we should contact the other──」

Zalsa shook free from his comrades and yelled angrily.

「"You didn't notice little thing like those guys having convenient Art you said? This idiot!" Do you want me to get laughed by the others like that huh!? If we ask them for help like this, it'll be like I'm saying "I'm stupid" you know that!」

Zalsa had also investigated Lyle before this. But, at that time Lyle was forbidden from using Art and kept failing when challenging the dungeon. Zalsa's group was underestimating Lyle's group.

Zalsa scratched his head roughly.

「Change of plan. If it like this, we're gonna attack them. If we don't let them rest and shave their stamina──」

Zalsa noticed something strange when he spoke until that far.

「──What? What sound is this?」

The adventurer who was in charge of gathering information stood up from the ground and opened his eyes wide.

「It's those guys. Zalsa-san, they're heading here──」

At that time the aforementioned large box that seemed to be called Porter climbed the slanted path from floor B28 and showed its appearance.

Zalsa and others ran away from there seeing its size and the group scattered.

Several people were sent flying by Porter.

Porter stopped and a single young man came down.

The blue haired man was one of the targets of Zalsa's group.

He was a man so there was no problem to kill him.

While everyone was shocked and couldn't stand up from fear, Zalsa pulled out the rapier on his waist and howled.

「What the hell you're doing! This guy is Lyle! Kill him!」

Zalsa didn't notice Lyle narrowing his gaze when he saw the rapier.

Zalsa's comrades took up their weapons one after another and attacked Lyle.

Lyle stood while behind him Porter was parked horizontally to block the passage, blocking the escape path.

His comrades attacked Lyle. When Lyle was gone from view, Zalsa made a vulgar smile.

「With this no one will laugh at me! After this I'm gonna play with the remaining girls!」

Zalsa was already thinking about what he was going to do with the remaining members inside his mind, but the next moment, he saw his comrades falling on the ground and stiffened with his mouth hanging open.

His comrades on the ground were bleeding and moaning.

Just now three people attacked at the same time. They were people whose strength was top ranked among them. It was completely unimaginable that they would be defeated this easily.

Lyle had two sabers in his hands.

He used two-sword style, furthermore the saber in his right hand was pointed at Zalsa.

「……You're the leader?」

The others were recoiling seeing their stronger fighters defeated.

Zalsa instinctually noticed.

(Dangerous. This guy is dangerous!)

Zalsa's comrades couldn't move even though they were facing Lyle alone. If he took the wrong respond at this kind of time, one, then two people would run away, then at the end the group would lose cohesion and crumbled.

The gazes of the surrounding toward Zalsa were saying 「If it's Zalsa he can win」. He had no choice but to fight here.

They were a group that targeted fellow adventurers like bandit.

Smart head was necessary to lead that kind of people, but more than that it was strength that was important. He could throw his weight around and order them because he was stronger than anyone.

(Goddamn it. This trashes!)

He couldn't let his guard down even against his comrades. If he showed even the slightest opening, Zalsa knew that they would bare their fang toward him.

Because he had also did the same until now.

Zalsa slowly took a breath.

There was smell of blood.

The smell of his comrades' blood.

But, that was also a familiar scent for him until now. He had attacked dozens of adventurer party and acted with complete heinousness to obtain valuables.

(You shitty brat! I'll kill your comrades especially slowly. I'll torture them till they cry and beg me to stop!)

He tidied his hair with his hand and took a stance with his rapier.

He had a beautiful stance that didn't suit his personality.

「You're trying too hard to look cool. I'll praise your foolhardiness to attack a group this big by yourself.」

Lyle didn't move.

His blue eyes and the blue Jewel hanging from his neck shined.

「Don't pretend. I've listened to the conversation of you guys. There're various things that I want to ask.」

Zalsa laughed slightly.

「Isn’t it fine even if we have some leeway to enjoy a bit of talk? If not──」

Using a movement that only looked like he was taking a small step, Zalsa slipped until Lyle’s bosom. He was convinced of his victory.

(Stupid! I’m a famous swordsman even in Arumsaas!)

Zalsa was certainly known as a distinguished swordsman even in Arumsaas. That was because he joined a famous dojo, obtained the certificate of his full mastery, and his strength was acknowledged.

He chose rapier because he had the skill to target and stab at the armor’s opening.

Zalsa liked seeing his opponent in pain after he stabbed them through their protector’s opening.

However, Lyle deflected Zalsa’s stab with his saber.

(Wha, what-!?)

Zalsa instantly took distance from Lyle. Cold sweat trickled on his cheek.

(He can keep up with my speed? Is that his Art? Or else a magic tool?)

He didn’t hear that his opponent possessed magic tool.

Besides, since coming to Arumsaas, he heard that Lyle didn’t join any dojo.

He thought that Lyle could handle sword somewhat, but this was surpassing his imagination.

「You’ve good skill to be able to keep up with the thrust just now. How about it, will you become our comrade?」

Lyle quietly took a stance with his saber.

Zalsa gestured exaggeratedly to show his disappointment in order to show to the surrounding that he had the fight in the bag.

「I thought we would be able to get along though.」

He stepped forward and launched thrust in succession.

Sparks scattered from the clash of the swords of the two.

Impatience was growing in Zalsa's heart each time he crossed sword with Lyle.

(What's with this strength. What the hell!)

Lyle dodged leisurely even when he feinted or attacked with full strength.

Because Zalsa was desperately attacking, to his comrades it looked like he was in advantage and they were getting excited.

However, Zalsa himself was looking at Lyle as though he was facing a monster.

None of his attack worked. The technique he had didn't work.

He grabbed the sand he was hiding in his sleeve with his left hand, but before he could throw the sand, it was slashed together with his left hand.

「Tsu!」

Pain ran through his left hand, the wound felt hot.

He aimed at Lyle's face with the rapier in his right hand, but that was also dodged and he got hit with a headbutt instead.

(Thi, this bastard!)

Lyle not only fought using well-mannered sword technique, Zalsa sensed that he was also well versed with real combat and his sense of danger was growing stronger.

He took a distance and used the back of his right hand to wipe his nose. Blood was flowing from there.

「Zalsa is losing?」

「Do, don't be stupid. This might be his usual acting.」

「That's right, this is obviously Zalsa-san's game!」

Sometimes he would perform a farce where he made the opponent felt convinced that they would win before showing his true strength from there. The reason he was doing something like that because it was fun seeing the opponent getting cocky.

But, right now was different.

(What the hell. Who the hell said that this guy is just a noble from the sticks. How is this guy this strong at this age……hm?)

But, Zalsa noticed.

Lyle didn't deal the finishing blow on Zalsa even though their difference of strength was this great.

When he looked at his defeated comrades, they were still groaning. ……They were alive.

And then, although Lyle was really used to fight, he was really young.

(……Kuku, kukukuh! I see. So that's it.)

Thinking carefully, he was alone here without any of his comrades was also understandable.

There was no sign of Lyle's comrades attacking from behind while their eyes were focused on Lyle.

In other words this was──.

「You……never killed someone before huh.」

Lyle's expression distorted slightly.

Zalsa laughed.

「There're people like you huh! Those who hesitate to kill human even though they had seriously studied to kill monster! So you're also like that.」

Lyle stayed silent.

Zalsa stopped pretending to be gentleman and laughed with an ugly face.

「You guys are really stupid. You can't kill human even though you will kill monster? Idiot! It doesn't change that it's still killing, what the hell you're doing putting on airs. Well, thanks to that you won't be able to win against me though.」

Adventurers with strong avoidance of killing human were mainly young adventurer or honest adventurer.

If someone was living as adventurer, there would also be times when they were recruited into battlefield.

But, there were adventurers who were avoiding from fighting people.

Zalsa couldn't understand them.

If they were adventurers then hunting their fellow adventurers would be more profitable. Fruits of labor from defeating a lot of monsters with hard work and gathering materials could be obtained wholly just from a single battle.

They could also sell the equipments and tools of the adventurers they defeated with high price.

If they went to battlefield they would attack village and ransack it.

Zalsa and his group were no different from bandit.

「I don’t know which spoiled young master of countryside noble you are but, are you intending to stick to chivalry? Just keep sticking with that lofty spirit and die, stuu~pid!」

Zalsa slashed at Lyle──.

.

──The place was floor B29.

Novem and others who changed their campsite were waiting while being fully armed.

They were staying vigilant thinking that they might get targeted too.

Miranda had laid out wires on the entrance. It became a set up to prevent intruder from coming in.

Aria who was shouldering her lance sensed approaching footsteps.

「Someone’s coming. This is, Miranda and others? It looks like they aren’t riding Porter.」

The group that returned to the room was Miranda, Shannon, and then Poyopoyo who was making a dissatisfied face.

Miranda entered the room and then she redid the wires that were taken off.

Novem instantly asked when she saw only the three of them returned.

「Where’s Lyle-sama!?」

Miranda shook her head.

「He insisted that we returned. There wasn’t even any time to persuade him. He charged ahead alone.」

Novem glared at Poyopoyo with an expression that was sterner than usual.

「You escaped leaving behind your master?」

Poyopoyo replied to Novem also with a dissatisfied look.

「Even I insisted to stay behind! But I was told that these two won't be able to return safely without me……I cannot go against order.」

Her last words conveyed how she wasn't coming back here willingly.

Shannon was looking around in a dither.

「He, hey……it'll be fine right? That guy went off alone but, he will return alive right?」

Sophia made a face as though she had bitten something bitter hearing that question.

「Shouldn't we immediately go to assist? The number of the enemy is unmistakably a lot isn't it?」

Miranda told her the exact number.

「From what Shannon and Poyopoyo detected, there were 25 people. Well, the number in just that place was 25 people. They seemed to be flustered, but I wonder how is the situation there right now.」

The ability of Shannon's mystic eyes was to see mana and manipulate it. Even if someone was far away, she was able to eavesdrop at conversation using the vibration of mana.

Shannon looked down and clutched her skirt.

「Those guys, it seems they still have other comrades.」

Novem tightly gripped her staff and moved to leave the room, but Miranda caught her shoulder.

「Can you let go? I don't have any time to entertain you.」

Miranda's expression was unruffled even with Novem glaring at her.

「Oh, are you unable to believe in your precious Lyle-sama?」

Novem was in opposition of this plan from the start.

She agreed because Lyle said that they would only check the situation and returned if the situation seemed difficult.

She wasn't told that he would charge ahead by himself.

「Because he is precious to me I cannot abandon him. That was why I was opposing this. Why is every time something like this──」

Aria also moved to act.

「I'll go ahead to help Lyle.」

Sophia also shouldered her battle axe.

「If I manipulate my weight, I can lighten myself and have Aria carry me. Perhaps we'll make it in time if we go with the two of us.」

Clara slightly looked down.

「Supporter isn't useful at this kind of time. But I think I'll be able to drive Porter if you bring me.」

Everyone was saying they would go to where Lyle was, but this time Poyopoyo stood at the entrance and spread open her arms to not let them go.

Aria grabbed Poyopoyo's shoulders , but she didn't even give an inch.

「Wait! Why are you in the way? Are you really broken in actuality!?」

Poyopoyo shook her head.

「This is chicken dickwad's order. I won't let anyone pass.」

Novem bared her hostility. She readied her wand and prepared to use magic.

Sophia held Novem back.

「Novem-san wait!」

「Let go. I'm going to Lyle-sama's side.」

Shannon hugged Miranda in fear. Miranda lifted her up and sat her down on a crate.

When she herself also sat down, everyone's gaze gathered on her.

It was Aria who yelled at Miranda.

「Just what are you doing at this kind of time!」

Miranda showed her composure and smiled at Aria.

「I'm just waiting quietly.」

'You don't understand from looking?' Her attitude seemed to say that. Novem was quietly amassing her anger.

「……Miranda-san, it seems you're lying about wanting to become Lyle-sama's number one . From your attitude, are you thinking that it's alright even if Lyle-sama die?」

Miranda objected at the expressionless Novem.

「That's a joke. I'm still aiming for that position even now. I'm only waiting her just as I was told. I'm respecting Lyle's opinion.」

Sophia criticized Miranda with a strong tone.

「That's the same with not doing anything! That's no different from abandoning him!」

Shannon clung at Miranda and looked like she wanted to cry. Everyone softened their tone for a bit seeing that.

However, Lyle might be facing danger while they were doing this.

Novem glanced at Poyopoyo.

(It will take time to destroy this automaton and rush to Lyle-sama's side. But, there is no other──)

She didn't pay any mind to the string Miranda created from the start, as though they were meaningless.

When she was about to take action that she thought to be the best in order to save Lyle, Miranda looked at Novem with a smile.

「You all, believe in Lyle for a bit.」

Novem stopped moving hearing those words.

「……What do you want to say?」

「Certainly he is ignorant of the world and there're many times when he is careless. His mental age is also about the same like Shannon I guess? He looks unreliable, so I can understand your feeling of not wanting to leave him alone.」

Miranda tilted her head and then she spoke provocatively to everyone.

「But you know, the Lyle that I love……will overcome something of this level.」

Novem turned toward Miranda.

「Can you take responsibility if something happen to Lyle-sama?」

「That might happen but, I think the possibility is low. Poyopoyo, does Lyle looks weak from your perspective? You think he is going to lose against those guys?」

Poyopoyo protected the entrance while answering.

「Chicken dickwad is weak? That's not true. Even if he was actually weak, this Poyopoyo has supported him for these several months in meal, sleep, and training. There is no way he is weak.」

Aria bluntly spoke what was in her mind.

「It only looked like he was making strange pose and dancing. I thought that perhaps he was doing acrobatics training.」

Sophia and Clara also nodded.

Shannon was feeling plainly shocked that they were thinking like that.

Poyopoyo let out a deep sigh, and then she lifted her face.

「So you are looking down on this Poyopoyo. Well, it can't be helped though that everyone is judging this cute Poyopoyo from her outside appearance. These several months chicken dickwad wasn't playing around. Him losing──is impossible.」

Poyopoyo was convinced of Lyle's victory──.

Chapter 64 – Foe

I painfully vomited because of the ghastly scene.

I couldn't resist the welling up discomfort.

It was a scene that I had seen several times, but I was still astonished that there would be this much difference just from a change in human. I put my hand on my chest.

My gaze was turned toward a right arm still holding a rapier lying down on the floor.

The ancestors harped on calling me pathetic seeing me like this.

Not because I vomited.

……I, couldn't kill the enemy.

The Second sounded dissatisfied.

『Lyle, why do you hesitate?』

The adventurers who came to attack us had run away. Only those I defeated were still remaining.

The man named Zalsa whose hand I severed had also escaped to somewhere.

「……I couldn't do it.」

I wouldn't be troubled like this if I understood the reason. I hesitated the moment I swung down my blade to the opponent and held back slightly.

Because of that, the opponent lost his right arm but…….

The Third was exasperated.

『Lyle, you have to do it when it's time. You should know that the price for this failure will be high.』

The ancestors didn’t hesitate when they decided to kill human.

Even though their sense of values and era differed from each other……it seemed they had the same conviction only in this.

The Fourth looked at the surrounding and decided what should be done after this.

『Burn their belonging, and then there is also other materials put behind at the nearby room. Let’s destroy that too.』

The Fifth was composed.

『The possibility is high that they will ask for help from their comrades rather than going into frenzy and coming at us in desperation.』

The Sixth sounded bored.

『It will be easier to destroy them if they do that though.』

My comrades were all girl.

Someone like Shannon was still a child. I didn’t want to show her this kind of sight.

It seemed that the ancestors also didn’t want to show Shannon this sight.

The Seventh talked with a tone that made me imagined that he was surely smiling.

『They’re running around inside this dungeon where monsters are crawling, without any decent equipment or supply. Now then, I wonder just how many idiots will be able to reach their comrades.』

The Fourth concluded the opinions.

『Then, let's go to their supply storage area. Fortunately it's right nearby. Porter was in the way so they couldn't take the supply in their escape, let's dispose them all.』

I wiped my mouth and got into Porter, then moved until the room where Zalsa's gang kept their supply stored.

It was really a big help that Shannon and Poyopoyo told me various information like the enemy's position and so on.

Just like the ancestors said, I didn't need any Art from the start.

I arrived at the room without any hitch and discovered the supply.

There was also no guard.

I pointed my hand toward the piled up supplies.

I created a fire ball and then fired it toward the supplies. Fire scattered and burned the supplies.

The Second was calm.

『Now then, let's go back. It will be stupid if they come attacking while you aren't there and Novem-chan and others got harmed.』

The Seventh sounded really refreshed.

『If they have the guts to come attacking then we only need to just attack them back. However, Lyle……you have to bring down the enemy's leader. It's important to destroy the head.』

I returned to Porter and returned to the location of Novem and others without being able to say anything.

.

──Zalsa wrapped the right hand that he lost with cloth.

He stopped the bleeding and finally returned in order to recover their supplies. But there he fell on his knees.

His left hand was holding a sword that he took away from his comrade.

In front of him, water and food──and then important supplies had been reduced to ash.

His other comrades rushed to the supplies and checked, but they only learned that there was almost nothing that was usable.

Zalsa looked at the right arm that he lost.

「That shitty brat……don't fuck with meeeee!」

Rage was welling up.

He lost the majority of his comrades. It was especially painful that his strong comrades were gone. There were only small fries and baggage carrier who were remaining.

Even if they had the fund to buy supplies and equipments to replace what they lost, it wouldn't be that easy to replace the comrades that were lost.

In addition he lost his dominant arm.

From here on it would take several years to form a party in the same scale like before if he did it in a normal way. No, it wouldn't be strange even if it took ten years.

「You……you made this me angry. I absolutely not gonna forgive you bastard!」

The blood rose to his head, but Zalsa thought about from here on.

(It's impossible to escape from the dungeon with just us. I can only ask Benir to pick us up. If we deal with that noble brat──Ludhor, we'll have some surplus money. I'll use prosthetic for my right arm, get stronger again and then next time I'll kill that shitty brat for sure.)

When he thought until that far, there was a sound of a group approaching the room.

「Monster at this kind of time?」

He held his weapon and took a stance, but he found the figure of Benir there shouldering his hammer.

「Benir! Yo, mate!」

Zalsa found hope in this situation and smiled.

Benir approached.

「Your comrade came until the floor we were at. When we came running here, we found you in a really terrible situation like this huh, Zalsa. Who the hell do you think will have to clean up after you?」

Zalsa wanted to retort back at Benir's highhanded attitude, but right now his position was overwhelmingly weaker.

「My bad, Benir. That shitty brat is unexpectedly strong.」

「I don't wanna hear any excuse.」

Benir held up the hammer he shouldered.

「Be, Benir?」

Zalsa's face cramped. Benir spoke to Zalsa's comrades that were watching from the surrounding.

「You guys, decide whether to die here or to follow me. Those who won't obey──」

Zalsa tried to run away, but he was wounded and also had no stamina left. Without even being able to run away from Benir's hammer, his head was crushed.

「You'll end like this.」

Everyone swore to follow Benir.

Benir stroked his beard.

「Zalsa, I've hated you since a long time ago. I wanted to vomit seeing your fake gentleman act.」

Benir counted Zalsa's remaining comrades.

「Only eight people huh. Well, the monsters must have cleaned up the rest, no use caring about it. You guys, from today I'm your leader.」

Benir whose number of underlings was increased stroke his beard and thought about from here on.

「Now then, Zalsa is a shitty bastard but, his strength is the real thing. For someone to defeat him, this is troublesome.」

The careful Benir also took into consideration about withdrawing for a moment. He thought to report to their client Ludhor for now──.

.

I met up with Novem and others. They were worried whether I was wounded.

「Lyle-sama, are you injured!? Please take off your clothes right away!」

The worried Novem came to strip off my clothes.

I didn't even have any spirit to resist, but right I wanted to be just left alone.

「I, I'm fine. I'm fine as you can see.」

「No. What are you going to do if the enemy used poison? I'll check right away.」

Poyopoyo was exasperated.

「I don’t find any external wound on chicken dickwad.」

However Novem ignored her and moved to check my body.

Aria-san and Sophia-san were scolding me.

「You idiot!」

「Why did you go fight by yourself! Do you not believe us?」

I didn’t know how to answer that, but then Novem glared at the two of them.

「Please stay quiet for now.」

The two were overwhelmed by Novem and closed their mouth. Miranda-san came bringing wet towel for me then.

「Isn’t it better to let him rest for now? Besides, your usual composure cannot be seen you know──Novem.」

Novem’s hand stopped.

From inside the Jewel, unreliable voices that were unlike before came.

『I wish Miranda-chan will hold back a bit.』

『H~m, is this what they called a fight between women?』

『Why is my stomach getting hurt? We’re just a memory right? Even though I have no body my stomach is……』

『……I think this is because Novem is too fussy.』

『I wish you guys won’t talk as though everything is Mileia’s great granddaughter fault.』

『……Well, it will be better for Lyle to rest for now. He is also tired after all.』

I didn’t feel tired physically.

But, it was hard for my mind.

「Novem, I’m not injured so it’s fine. I want to rest for now.」

Novem looked at my face and felt down.

「Is, that so. What about the meal?」

「Impossible. I don’t want to eat.」

I would just vomit even if I ate.

Just what in the world this revolting feeling was?

Novem really looked worried for me. She stayed at my side until I headed to bed.

.

──The group that targeted Lyle.

Ludhor was sitting on the supplies that were piled up. He was looking down on trembling adventurers like they were trash.

「These trashes. Who do you think you’re talking to?」

The corpses of Benir and several of his comrades were lying down ahead of his gaze.

The reason other adventurers were shaking was because Ludhor used magic.

In the first place a noble meant a magician, not just in Bahnseim Kingdom but also in other countries.

They obtained authority because they possessed the rare power that was magic. The thing called magic produced a clear difference of strength between those who had it and those who hadn’t.

The corpses of Benir and others were scorched.

Even though they had more battle experience and strength than Ludhor, they were killed too quickly in front of magic. Their comrades who saw that were trembling.

This kind of real deal magician also existed among the students attending the academy.

Ludhor's friend called to him.

「What're we going to do with the rest?」

Ludhor didn't treat his friend like a trash or felt irritated to him because he was a fellow noble and magician.

「It'll be good to erase them all here, but it'll also be good to forgive them if they work for me. It's the fact that I want pawns I can use in Arumsaas.」

His other friend also agreed.

「Aah, good idea. It's inconvenient relying solely to our house after all.」

「It's also interesting to hire the surviving bunches. You guys, work like your life depends on it.」

Ludhor and his friends roared with laughter. Near them there were armed knights.

They were skilled fighters that the houses of Ludhor and his friends sent here.

But, Ludhor recalled the report from the adventurers.

「Even so, the adventurers who I heard are strong are just small fries. They got done in by mere countryside noble.」

His friends shrugged.

「You expect too much from adventurer. More importantly what now? Are we going to wait here to attack them?」

Lyle and others would surely pass through this place where they were waiting.

It would be the easiest to aim at that time.

Ludhor thought for a bit.

「……Let's see. If possible I want to watch an interesting show.」

Ludhor looked down at the trembling adventurers while smiling.

The two leaders of the malicious adventurers had died and at the end only Ludhor who was a noble remained.

Before they launched attack at Lyle's group, the adventurers were told to kill each other.

Ludhor and others looked even more sinister than the monsters crawling inside the underground dungeon──.

.

The night passed.

Poyopoyo who was standing guard the whole night hit a fry pan with a ladle to wake up everyone.

「It's morning. Please wake up. H~m, today the weather of the labyrinth is also really good! The weather cannot be seen at all though!」

I looked at Poyopoyo whose tension was high right from the morning and took the book that I used as pillow.

It was a book about names.

I immediately put it inside my luggage and yawned. My feeling after waking up was the worst.

I just felt bad.

I didn’t understand whether I was sleeping or awake.

The feeling of my mind being churned around, and the sensation of cutting human yesterday hadn’t vanished.

I hugged myself. It was then Novem approached.

「Lyle-sama, good morning. Shall I wipe your body?」

When I noticed I had been sweating a lot while sleeping.

「Yeah, please do.」

Usually the ancestors inside the Jewel would be complaining annoyingly right now, but they were silent.

Normally they would say things like ‘How can you make Novem-chan do something like this~’, but today they were silent from the morning.

Then, Miranda-san came to me bringing a bucket.

「Lyle, I have hot water prepared. “I” will wipe your body for you.」

It felt like she was stressing her tone when she said I, but the me right now only nodded.

I didn’t feel good from the morning.

Novem looked at Miranda and she seemed like she would say something, but she stood up and smiled at me.

「Then, I will start the breakfast preparation.」

I said 「Yeah」 to the back of Novem who was leaving, then Miranda-san started wiping my body.

With a small voice,

「I woke up Shannon and asked her to check the surrounding but, it looks like there is no sign of people.」

It seemed she woke earlier than me and checked the area.

When I looked at Shannon, she looked sleepy.

「I've troubled you.」

Miranda-san laughed.

「It's no trouble. You've worked hard yesterday, and?」

Miranda-san urged me to talk. She must be asking for the information of the group that was thinking to attack us.

「They're a party that is used to attack adventurers. It looks like they still have other comrades, but they weren't at floor B27 so I think they were at the higher floor. I burned their supplies, so those who escaped might be joining up with their comrades.」

Miranda-san nodded several times.

「It'll be good if they obediently withdraw. They'll also need water and food for the people they rescued, so I think they will withdraw.」

If the number of people increased, the amount of food and water consumed would also increase by that much.

The more people they saved, the more they would constrict their own neck.

「It seemed they were targeting us. I collected their guild card, so let's check it out when returning to the surface. Our constrained living might continue for a while though.」

Miranda-san smiled.

「It can’t be helped. We’ll endure that if we can be safe with that. More importantly Lyle……about the next floor boss, can you leave it to me?」

Miranda-san said that and snuggled closer to me.

She might have wiped herself, I smell a faint scent of soap.

.

『Miranda-chan, how should I say it, she’s properly on the attack isn’t she.』

Rather than calling her proactive, he must want to say that she was aggressive.

The Third said something like that.

Clara-san and Shannon were inside Porter.

The other got down and held up metal board.

Poyopoyo created the shields to defend against the light beam──according to Poyopoyo it was called “laser”.

Sophia-san held the shield and said.

「Somehow it feels unreliable.」

It was created thinly to lighten the weight. It would dent if it was hit normally. It seemed that it was painted with some kind of paint that would block the laser that was fired by the cylinder object that was the floor boss.

Poyopoyo carried two shields.

「What a rude person. In the first place against that cylinder pillar even a thick one will be pointless.」

The cylinder pillar that was as wide as two adults and three meter tall had a trait of being extremely heavy.

Such heavy boss that was called as cylinder pillar was floating unsteadily. Even adult would be crushed if they got tackled by it.

The shield would be useful enough as long as it blocked the laser that was fired from its single eye.

Aria-san held a shield and looked at Miranda-san.

「You will really do it alone?」

Miranda-san showed the knives and tools hanging on her waist.

「It'll be enough with just these. Protect me if something happen okay, Lyle?」

Novem looked with cold eyes at Miranda-san who was making appeal at just me.

The Second muttered with a subdued tone.

『Somehow Novem-chan feels scary since yesterday.』

The Second, the Third, and the Fourth were kind to Novem, but the Fifth the rest were kind to Miranda-san and Shannon.

Even though normally the Fifth would be disinterested, today only he seemed to be concerned about various things.

『……Isn't Miranda better than Novem? Novem is spoiling Lyle too much.』

The Third couldn't just ignore that and objected.

『Novem-chan who sold her dowry and devoted herself to Lyle isn't worthy for him? Now I cannot just let that go.』

The opinions split inside the Jewel and a quarrel started, but I ignored them and talked to Miranda-san.

「Please don't force yourself too much.」

Miranda-san smiled and replied.

「Just watch. It's not just Aria and others who have worked hard.」

Floor B30.

We were standing by in front of the boss room and entered inside all at once.

We who were carrying shield went ahead. Miranda-san and Porter were following from behind.

Light was emitted from the single eye of the cylinder pillar.

Sophia-san blocked it.

「The, the light──the laser really get stopped!?」

The shield certainly had fulfilled its role. The laser that was fired from the boss got stopped.

Miranda-san rushed out from behind Sophia-san and threw something toward the boss.

Aria-san ran in order to cover Miranda-san.

「Clay? What's the use of something like that?」

It was a rectangular clay the size of a palm. Its shape changed when hitting the boss and stuck on its surface.

「No, that's──」

Novem seemed to notice and she was about to say something, but Miranda-san explained first.

「That's not just a clay. If I do this──be careful to the light and sound.」

Miranda-san threw a knife that stabbed into the clay sticking on the boss.

Right after that, the clay shined and exploded.

「Heh!?」

When I noticed, the boss was rotating midair while crashing on the wall.

When it fell on the floor, Miranda-san threw a clay block once more.

「Oh, how tough. Just one won't be enough as expected. Its weak point is……here perhaps.」

She said that and threw a clay block on the boss's eye. Then she threw a knife again at it.

When the clay was stabbed, it emitted light and at the same time the smoking boss was blown away.

The explosive sound echoed inside the room. It hurt the ears.

While I was feeling astonished at the sound resounding to my body, the boss stopped moving.

Poyopoyo approached the boss.

「……It stopped functioning.」

Miranda-san turned toward us.

「This is the second time so it's easy. I thought that it would be simple to defeat it if I do this, still it's nice that it went well.」

The Sixth was dumbfounded.

『Do, don't tell me she created a bomb?』

The Seventh was fidgety.

『What power. Besides that clay! In that shape it's easy to carry it around. It cannot be compared with a toy like burst arrow!』

The Seventh who loved explosive was excited and full of interest toward the clay.

I approached Miranda-san.

「Don't tell me, Miranda-san is walking around bringing a lot of that clay? I, it won't explode or anything right?」

Miranda-san guessed my worry and showed to me her special knife.

「I made it so the explosion will occur when it's combined with this knife. Well, it's troublesome because it's handmade so I can't prepare a lot.」

It seemed she made the explosive by herself.

Thinking back, I met horrible experience because of this person's explosive.

The Seventh's excitement wouldn't stop.

『She made it herself! Magnificent. As expected from the great granddaughter of aunt!』

The Sixth sounded inarticulate. Perhaps he had complicated feeling.

『O, oi. Stop it. You make it sound like Milleia was a bombing maniac. Don't confuse her with you.』

His remark made it sounded like the Seventh was a bombing maniac, but I looked at the cylinder pillar that was a floor boss smoking inside the room.

Clara-san came down from the porter.

「Then I'll collect the magic stone and materials.」

Shannon also came down. Hesitantly, she touched the cylinder pillar that Miranda-san defeated.

「This is a strange creature. It's like it's not alive.」

Certainly the inside wasn't biological but mechanical.

It seemed that it only appeared in Arumsaas's dungeon, but still what a mysterious floor boss.

「With this I can use Arts──」

Was it alright for it to be this easy? I recalled everything until now and thought that it was unexpectedly anti-climactic. Suddenly Poyopoyo pushed me hard.

「──You, what're you doing so suddenly!」

The sight I saw when I turned around after getting pushed away was──the sight of Poyopoyo with her back turned on me getting stabbed by arrows one after another.

Right away flame burst out from the spots that were stabbed by arrow, and then ice enveloped Poyopoyo's body and it cracked. Wind and electricity blew violently, in addition magic were fired to attack me one after another.

Poyopoyo became my shield and blocked all of that.

Her usual screwing around figure wasn't there, she ignored me even when I told her to get away and stood before me.

When the incessant attacks of magic arrows and magic stopped, it became silent like it was a dream.

My comrades turned their gaze toward the entrance, but I couldn't tear off my gaze from Poyopoyo's back.

「Oi, Poyopoyo!」

I ran toward Poyopoyo. There Poyopoyo was standing with both her hands protecting her head.

「──Yo, you, why?」

Her left arm from her elbow was gone. Small electricity was crackling from her body, red liquid was flowing from her stomach, and things with polished metallic color could be seen.

She was mostly battered except the head that she protected.

Her prided twintail was also scorched and messed up. Her maid uniform that she said was the only outfit she needed was also a mere shadow of its former self.

Poyopoyo's skin was the same color like human. The liquid flowing from her body was also red, but her inner structure was undoubtedly mechanical.

She was an automaton.

If she was a human, it wouldn't be strange if she died instantly in this stat.

「You──why did you protect me!」

Hearing my words, Poyopoyo's red eyes were flickering while she totteringly answered.

「What're you saying? Chicken dickwad is──my goshujin-sama. I'll protect you at the risk of my life. After all I'm……a maid.」

Poyopoyo said that and became unable to stand. She fell on her knees. I caught her body and hugged her close.

At that time, a man appeared while making applause.

「A love between automaton and human huh. Haha~, I've seen something good. This is the funniest thing I've seen recently.」

Beside the smiling man, there were two man of similar age. There were seven guards in black clothes protecting them.

And then behind them, several men dressed like adventurers were standing to block the entrance.

I was familiar with several people among them.

The bandits who tried to attack us.

The guards in black were clearly moving differently from the adventurers. They must be the elites.

Miranda-san who held her weapon in ready watched sharply.

「……Ludhor, why are you here?」

Seeing that he was Miranda-san's acquaintance, he must be an academy student or a noble──or perhaps both.

I hugged Poyopoyo who was unable to move.

The man called Ludhor looked at Miranda-san and made an ugly smile.

「Miranda, I'm really sad. If only you're a bit smarter, it would be only natural that you choose me. Both of us are fellow capital noble raised in the royal capital. Both of us aren't stranger to each other.」

Miranda-san moved her gaze and counted the enemy's number. Next, She slightly moved to protect Shannon.

Clara-san guessed that and stood in front of Shannon.

Aria-san stepped forward to protect the two of them.

The surrounding adventurers were holding weapon while looking scared.

Around the young man who seemed to be a noble, a lot of arrows──magic arrows were floating.

All the arrowheads were pointed at me.

I gritted my teeth.

I recalled the words of the ancestors.

The『price』that the Third mentioned, I couldn't help but feel that it wasn't directed at me but my comrades.

「Why are you targeting us?」

Ludhor seemed to be lightly irritated at my words. He was scowling.

「Shut up you countryside noble. Originally I should be the one to marry Miranda. But she got taken away by a countryside noble who was chased away from his house. Do you understand my feeling? It's a really miserable feeling.」

Miranda-san instantly denied him.

「I don't have any relationship with him. At best we only talked several times in the academy. Our houses have a bit of relationship with each other but, there isn't any talk of marriage.」

The students around Ludhor who seemed to be his friends laughed.

「Ludhor, that's what she said you know?」

「What a really naïve young lady. Even though everything will be alright if you just obediently marry Ludhor.」

What were these guys saying?

Could it be, they were doing something like this from unjustified resentment?

In that case……I!

My hand that was holding Poyopoyo tensed.

The Fifth's voice came from inside the Jewel.

『Lyle, you don't need to pay them any attention. This kind of fellow is a type that is raised in misunderstanding by their house. Inside their mind the marriage is a done deal, that's all there is to it. Although, it looks like that kind of idiot was born having power.』

Perhaps because they could use magic, Ludhor and his friends didn't carry weapon.

One of them had a lot of arrows floating around him. It must be an Art.

Ludhor looked at Miranda-san and clicked his tongue.

「Getting cocky just because I'm acting kind. Even though I was considering to keep you if you become my woman even if you're a second hand.」

Aria-san couldn't hold back and yelled.

「You guys are really shameless since just now looking down at us. Doing something like this because you want Miranda, you guys are the worst as man!」

Ludhor and his two friends were laughing even after hearing those words.

Only the seven men in black clothes were silent.

They didn't even say a word since the beginning.

「You're the stupid one.」

「Wha, what! I'm not stupid!」

Although Aria-san refuted right away, the Second was exasperated because she was only parroting back the other's words.

『You're stupid because you're objecting like that.』

Ludhor made a vulgar smile and turned his gaze to Porter.

「Our target is that thing. Porter is it? Miranda is just an extra. You all, it looks like you don't understand what it is that you've created huh.」

I was thinking to rush out anytime.

These guys kept talking arrogantly.

「A carriage that doesn't need horse. You can find anyone who wants it anywhere. If I monopolize Porter, then a lot of money will come even if I don't do anything. It's not like I need any woman. The draw of viscount house of Circry is just a bit attractive though.」

Sophia-san sent a glance at Porter.

「……Your aim from the start isn't us but Porter you said?」

Ludhor spoke as though to spit out.

「Who the hell need woman like you all! If I have money then I can obtain however many beautiful girls I like. I'm not going to get aroused by woman who become adventurer and turn into muscle demon.」

The girls were nothing but extra, his aim was Porter.

The Fourth muttered.

『Hmm, he got good eyes.』

Sophia-san was shaking.

「Making fun of us……in the first place, you destroyed Poyopoyo-san just because of that!?」

The three started cackling hearing the name Poyopoyo.

「Poyopoyo she said!」

「That name doesn't has the slightest sense!」

「No, it has! We should praise the sense that is hurting our stomach so much like this!」

I got ridiculed.

It made me thought, if only I gave a more proper name.

While the three were laughing, I slowly laid down Poyopoyo on the floor. I gently placed her down so that she wouldn't be even more broken than this. Then Ludhor opened his mouth.

「Now. For the time being if we have the actual thing then we can just disassemble it later and investigate it, but torturing you all for information will also be interesting. It will be funny watching you scums crying and begging for your life.」

I really couldn't think of them as fellow human.

Or perhaps was this the standard of the nobles of Bahnseim Kingdom?

I tightly gripped my saber's handle. Poyopoyo looked at me.

「……Chicken dickwad. No, goshujin-sama. I'm glad to have met you.」

「Don't talk anymore. I'll bring you to Damian's lab right away.」

「I……at the era when I was created……I had never opened my eyes……or got activated……」

「Wait for a bit. After everything is over, we'll immediately head to the surface. I don't know if you have any stamina left but, hold out until then.」

I said that while ignoring her words that I couldn't bear to listen to. Ludhor seemed to be displeased by that and clicked his tongue.

「……You're still playing with doll even now huh. Aren't you getting a bit too cocky?」

The Jewel heated up slightly.

I was seething with anger. If it was now I got the feeling I could steel myself.

I stood up and turned my gaze to Ludhor──or rather to tall of them.

The spacious floor boss room had round shape. Ludhor and others appeared from the entrance to floor B29. The adventurers were fanning out to block the path.

However, the positioning of the adventurers was half-baked. Perhaps to them the like of adventurers were just disposable pawn.

It looked like they only thought of the scared adventurers as their meat shield.

I counted the enemy's number.

「Oi, you listening?」

I ignored Ludhor who twisted his face and counted more than forty enemies.

The three who could use magic and Arts and the seven guards in black clothes were the one who I should be on guard against.

The Second's Art made the whole room to be a territory that I could sense.

『It has been several months since the last time. Use them well.』

The Third's Art started meddling with the enemies even if only faintly.

『The task was until you defeated the floor boss. From here Lyle can do as you like.』

The Fourth's Art raised my moving speed.

『Good grief. It would be better if they went with full strength right from the start. Instead they kept prattling in front of enemy.』

The Fifth's Art taught me of the surrounding terrain.

『They picked a good timing for attacking, and yet why did they choose to let go of the advantage by themselves? I can't understand it.』

The Sixth's Art notified me of the number of enemies that were holding hostility against me. Many were only following Ludhor but didn't really want to fight.

『Let's teach reality to these idiots capital noble, Lyle.』

Right now I didn't use the Seventh's Art.

『……It's really annoying but, it's no good if you kill the enemy.』

I rolled the Jewel with my fingers. It was the signal when I was saying no. The Fifth replied.

『It's not like we're telling you that it's bad to kill human at this point. Try looking behind you.』

When I turned my focus behind using the Second's Art, Shannon who was being protected by Clara-san was shaking. She was scared at this situation and seeing Poyopoyo's state.

『You must want to cut them down right now but, Shannon will be traumatized like that. That's no good. For your own sake too──don't kill.』

I wanted to refuse, but Shannon was near her limit even at the current situation.

The ancestors were concerned of Shannon getting traumatized if she witnessed people killing each other.

Conversely speaking, there was no other reason to let these guys live except that.

I tightly grasped the Jewel that I toyed with my fingers, then it seemed Ludhor who was red faced also reached his limit.

「Enough, tore off that guy's hands and legs!」

Ludhor's friend fired the magic arrows floatin around him one after another. The arrows accurately headed toward my limbs, so they were really easy to sense.

Miranda-san moved to cover me, but I moved faster than that and stepped forward.

Miranda-san who was going to cover me was surprised seeing my back.

Novem raised her wand, and Aria-san was also moving.

Sophia-san was lifting up her battle axe.

I didn't only use my sight and hearing──information was flowing in one after another through Arts.

「It's nostalgic to feel this.」

I recalled the sensation after few months not using the Arts while putting my left hand forward.

If the enemies were also magician, then I would also use magic. A barrier was created with mana centered on my left hand──a shield was deployed. The magic arrows and magic hit it and caused explosion on its surface.

The Seventh talked to me.

『Battle between magicians will be flashy. But, as long as there isn't a great difference in strength, it will only be flashy exchange of attack. The opponent will also deploy shield after all.』

It must be unreasonable from the perspective of the commoner.

Only magician possessed powerful magic and the method to defend against it.

Seeing their prided Art and magic blocked, Ludhor and his friends kicked the behind of the adventurers at the front.

「Go fight these small fries!」

The adventurers rushed toward me in panic.

The Sixth seemed excited.

『In the end, it will become sword fight like this! After all this is the best way to kill magician!』

If there was no difference in strength between the magicians, at the end the battle would be decided with close quarter combat.

──In that case there was no problem.

After all, I had the First's Art.

It was a simple and clear Art to strengthen the body. It increased my physical ability.

One adventurer came with a slash, so I grabbed his arm and threw him toward Ludhor and his friends.

The black clothed group that protected the three of them blocked the adventurer's body.

These guys were the most troublesome factor.

It was troublesome that I couldn't kill them.

I dodged the attack of the black clothed man who came at me, pounded my fist on his face and sent him flying. Several adventurers got hit with his body and fell.

The nearby adventurer swung down a rod that had iron ball attached on it.

I caught it with my left hand.

「Hih!」

I put strength into my left hand and snatched the weapon from the adventurer whose face was twitching.

「You, how many fellow adventurers you've killed until now?」

When I asked that, the man suddenly began to look around.

The effect of the Third's Art, Mind was to meddle with the opponent's mind. The scared adventurer was seeing the ghosts of the adventurers he had killed until now.

「N, no! I was only doing my order! That's why, it wasn't my faul──」

He was noisy so I shut him up with a kick on the stomach.

I threw the iron ball I took toward other adventurer.

The Third was laughing.

『Oh, they can't bring down Lyle, so the other adventurers are starting to hesitate.』

Just as he said, the other adventurers who were some distance away from Ludhor's group were running away from the passage.

「Wha, what the hell!」

「No moreeeeee!」

「Don't come. Don't comeeeee!」

Ludhor yelled.

「You guys, I'll kill you all if you run──」

The enemy's group was in chaos.

Miranda-san used her Art to fire strings toward the group in black clothes approaching me and captured them.

The sticky strings wrapped two people and made them unable to move.

Next, Miranda-san threw knives that stabbed the thigh of Ludhor's two friends.

「Hih! It hurt. It hurt-!」

「The blood. Blood is flowing!」

The two made pathetic voices.

When I noticed, Aria-san and Sophia-san were also moving.

Aria-san landed a hard thrust with the butt of her spear to the stomach of the black clothed men, while Sophia-san used the flat side of her battle axe to hit them flying.

Even when the remaining black clothed men moved to surround Aria-san and Sophia-san, Sophia-san grabbed a nearby adventurer.

She swung around the adventurer who she lightened using her Art, and then she threw him to the black clothed group. It seemed the adventurer's weight returned to normal the moment she threw him, but the black clothed group dodged the thrown adventurer.

The adventurer hit another adventurer and fell on the floor before rolling around for quite far.

Aria-san assaulted when the movement of the black clothed group was in disarray. She reaped their consciousness by hitting them with her spear.

The two of them weren't outdone facing against the adventurers and the black clothed group who moved skillfully.

Novem was giving support from behind.

Miranda-san was also restraining the adventurers one after another…….

Now there was nobody around Ludhor.

「You're the only one remaining.」

Ludhor who was standing rooted on the spot turned his gaze around in panic.

And then he caught sight of the shivering Shannon.

His hand turned toward Shannon, but I didn't move.

Miranda-san directed killing intent toward Ludhor.

I lifted my hand to ask her to wait.

Miranda-san twitched in reaction and stopped moving.

「Don't you dare acting leisurely bastard!」

Electricity was fired from Ludhor's hand.

The electric attack that was fired straight toward Shannon and Clara was blocked by a shield and didn't reach the two of them.

Ludhor's friends were groaning on the floor.

The black clothed group was defeated.

The adventurers had run away. It was only Ludhor who was left standing in place.

Even the magic he was proud of was blocked by Novem who was standing at the rear.

Novem opened her mouth with a staff in her hand.

「Something that weak won't be able to slip past my barrier.」

When the situation was overturned, Miranda-san bound the defeated group using string that she created with her Art.

I put my saber into its sheath in front of Ludhor.

「I, I was wrong. We, we're both noble. Look, there are various things right? Li, like getting along.」

Ludhor started buttering us up.

It was irritating listening to him. I slowly approached him.

Each time I took a step forward, Ludhor's tone would become even more over-familiar.

「I, if it's money I'll give it to you. How much do you want? I'll give you an amount that a countryside noble has never even seen. That's why, okay?」

I smiled.

「I don't need any. I can earn money myself after all.」

Ludhor's gaze wandered around. And then he saw my comrades behind and seemed to think of something.

「Then I'll prepare woman! I'll prepare whatever woman you like!」

「I don't need that.」

I only had one wish.

Ludhor's face turned into despair.

「M, my house won't stay quiet if you kill me! My house is──」

I stood in front of Ludhor and grabbed his annoying mouth with my hand.

「Hey, can you shut up? Right now I'm really in a bad mood. You understand the reason even without me saying it right?」

Ludhor pointed his hand toward my face to fire a magic.

My empty hand grabbed his arm and then I crushed it.

The sound of flesh and bone being crushed was conveyed to me through the body.

Ludhor writhed and tried to scream, but he couldn't make any voice with his mouth blocked.

Tears pooled in his eyes and he struggled violently.

I smelled ammonia.

「To be honest it will be nice to kill you here. I want to do that. But, I'm stopped from doing that.」

The inside of the Jewel was quiet.

I got the feeling they were observing my action.

「Come to think of it ……you said something really interesting.」

I let go of him and pushed him away. He fell on his butt and begged for his life while crying.

「Please forgive me. The truth is I just planned to make a bit of threat! I, it's true. But, those guys……the adventurers got carried away!」

He started saying that it was other people who were bad. It was a lie in order to survive here.

I grabbed Ludhor's hair and pushed his face on the floor.

「Torture, was it? There are also other things. What did you say you're going to do to my comrades?」

Ludhor was crying and dripping snot from the pain in his arm and fear.

「Please forgive me. I didn't say it, it was those guys who said it.」

Ludhor's betrayal caused his two friends who couldn't move to protest.

「You’re selling us out huh!」

「It was you who said that you got an idea of amusing game!」

Then Miranda-san kicked the face of one person and stepped on the head of the other one.

「Can you stay silent? Do you understand the meaning of targeting me──targeting Shannon?」

Miranda-san’s house was a viscount house in the capital.

It was a house with history and official post.

Briefly speaking, these guys who were attempting to murder a daughter of such house and hid the evidence inside a dungeon would only find destruction waiting for them even if they escaped to the surface.

I strongly grabbed Ludhor’s hair.

Several of his hairs were uprooted but I paid it no mind.

「Hear that, what is the truth? You will tell me everything won’t you?」

The Third’s Art was gradually showing effect. Ludhor also stopped crying from pain, and then the focus of his eyes was gone.

And then he answered my question.

「……I thought I’d be able to make money. There was also rumor of Miranda inviting man into her house, I was irritated so I wanted to hurt her and took away Porter.」

His motive was simplistic.

He could be praised for noticing Porter’s value, but it was unforgivable that he attacked us.

「Is there anyone who give you guys instruction?」

「None. When I contacted my house, they sent me money. After my house investigated I received letter that told me to send them the actual thing.」

I was exasperated.

「Did they also consider about getting into conflict with Circry House?」

Ludhor answered indifferently.

「It will be troublesome if I mentioned the name Circry House, so I hid it from my house. I thought there would be no problem if I thoroughly break Miranda so that she cannot go against me.」

The Seventh spoke briefly.

『Scum.』

I asked one more thing.

「What did you plan to do with Shannon?」

「……Blind girl is unnecessary so, I planned to leave her in the dungeon.」

Miranda-san's gaze turned stern.

I let go of Ludhor and ordered him to stand.

And then when I clapped my hand, Ludhor got liberated from Mind. His face twisted from pain and he was about to sit down on the spot.

I grabbed his collar.

「I think I'll be forgiven if I do this much.」

「──Heh?」

My face hit Ludhor's stupid face. My fist that sunk into his face broke Ludhor's front teeth and crushed his nose.

Ludhor was sent flying and then tumbled on the floor while screaming something, but Miranda-san immediately bound him.

I looked at my fist with an anger that still hadn't abated.

「Attacking us with that kind of reason」

I was furious at Ludhor who tried to kill us just because he wanted money and felt angry.

Novem spoke to me.

「Lyle-sama, Poyopoyo-san, she」

When I turned around, Novem was putting a blanket on Poyopoyo on the floor.

I rushed to them and sat down to peer on Poyopoyo's face.

「……Goshujin-sama……there's no more time. Before that can I ask you……just one thing?」

I talked to her while holding back from crying.

「Idiot. I'll bring you right away to Damian's place. And then you'll be back to normal.」

I didn't know whether Damian would be really able to fix an automaton.

But, I could only say that……I could only hold on hope.

Tears came out.

Poyopoyo wiped my tear with a halting movement using her remaining hand.

「I won't make it. Besides……with Professor Damian's skill……before that, just one thing……actually, I liked……the name Poyopoyo.」

I grabbed Poyopoyo's hand.

「I'm sorry. Actually I've been thinking for a proper name. But, I couldn't say it……I don't want to be told again that the name is bad.」

Actually I've been thinking of a name all this time.

But, I couldn't say it until now.

Poyopoyo smiled.

「then……can I……hear that name? I've……been waiting……all this time」

The flickering light in Poyopoyo's eyes was gradually weakening.

「What's with that. Don't talk like it's a farewell.」

Aria-san was silently looking down.

Sophia-san was wiping her eyes.

Clara-san was looking at Poyopoyo wordlessly.

Novem sat near me and closed her eyes.

During that time, Miranda-san was watching over the enemies that were tied up. It seemed she was making time so I could focus on Poyopoyo.

Poyopoyo's voice was gradually getting harder to listen to.

「There is……no time. That's why……before that」

I wiped my tears.

And then I spoke Poyopoyo's name that I had been thinking all this time.

「Monika──it's Monika. I've been thinking it all this time but, I think this name is good.」

Poyopoyo looked happy.

「Mo……ni……ka……it's a, good……name, isn't it.
I……am……hap……py.」

I talked to Monika who slowly closed her eyes.

I felt that strength suddenly left her body.

Shannon shook her head.

「Lies. This is lies! Impossible. How……this is impossible!」

Clara-san hugged the shocked Shannon and soothed her.

「Shannon-san, it's fine already. We should let her sleep. Poyopoyo-san──Monika-san, she protected Lyle-san!」

「Wrong. You're wrong!」

I could hear their voices, but I was assaulted with the feeling of lethargy from losing Monica.

「If…..if only I was more dependable」

Novem talked to me kindly.

「Lyle-sama, please don't blame yourself too much.」

「I'm……if I was more……properly」

After losing her, I realized for the first time just how much she had done for me until now.

Even though she insulted me as chicken dickwad, she prioritized me more than anything.

If only I was──kinder to her──to Moni──ka.

The inside of the Jewel was getting noisy.

『O, oi. Just now was there something sucked out?』

『Something was abruptly sucked out.』

『What could have happened just now?』

『Oi, isn't the flow of mana directed toward her?』

『To Poyopoyo? No, she is Monika right now huh.』

『……Ah!?』

The Seventh seemed to remember something. He said something that Monika previously said.

『She said it didn't she? There is a line of mana between her and Lyle, and she is obtaining energy from there. At that time, if I remember right she also said something about repair.』

I had familiarity with this sensation of strength leaving me.

When my mana was still little in capacity, my mana got taken away because of the ancestors making a ruckus inside the Jewel.

This sensation was familiar with that time.

No, my mana was being sucked even more than that.

Novem seemed to notice the abnormality.

「Lyle-sama? Err, is your complexion gradually worsening? A, are you alright?」

I looked at Monika.

Monika's eyes were closed looking like she was sleeping peacefully──it was only her mouth that was moving.

「Body repair finished. Carrying out optimization of data and body. Starting the restart.」

Aria-san was surprised hearing her saying that with a monotone voice.

「She talked!?」

She and Sophia-san stiffened in a strange pose from the surprise.

「Co, could it be she is coming back to life?」

I looked at Monica.

I couldn’t put strength into my body anymore.

「Yo, you……could it be」

When Monica opened her eyes, she looked at my face and smiled.

「Restart finished. Switching to normal mode from here.」

She said that and lifted her upper body and kissed me.

And then, she leaped and somersaulted midair before landing on the floor and pinched her skirt with elegant movement. She bent her knees and lowered her head.

The blanket fluttered airily.

「This Monika formerly Poyopoyo, from here on──allow me the privilege to take care of chicken dickwad forever at his side.」

It was a beautiful bow.

She also caught the falling blanket and quickly folded it.

「Yo, you……did you……trick me?」

My mouth didn’t move well.

My sight was wavering. Surely it was wavering along with my body.

Novem caught me and supported me.

「Lyle-sama!? Do, don’t tell me that you sucked Lyle-sama’s mana!」

Monika twisted her body cutely.

「I have no memory of speaking even once that it's a farewell. Even so, I didn't know that chicken dickwad was thinking hard of a name for my sake. I anxiously thought that perhaps he actually forget to think of any name, but as expected chicken dickwad is the best goshujin-sama!」

Her scorched and messed up twintail had been fixed when I noticed. Her hair was smooth and looking soft and shiny.

Her red maid uniform also looked like new.

She also had complete hands and legs. There wasn't any wound that could be seen on her. No, in the first place could automaton get injured? Would it be better to call it damage?

My thought couldn't focus so much that I was thinking of such trivial matter.

「……no way.」

After I muttered that as my last, I entrusted my body to Novem and let go of my consciousness.

「Lyle-samaaaaa!!」

「Chicken dickwaaad!!」

I could hear Novem and Monica's voices, but I couldn't move anymore.

I was really all sorts of tired.

Chapter 65 – Cleaning Up

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——When Lyle fainted, Novem stood up.

She lifted up Lyle with her arms to lay him down inside Porter.

Monika was complaining to her.

「Taking care of chicken dickwad is my job!」

「Whose fault do you think it is that Lyle-sama fainted?」

Novem stared coldly, in respond Monika didn't draw back even for a step.

「That's why I'll take care of him. See, there is no problem at all.」

The two of them were returning to Porter while arguing. Miranda saw them off and then she approached Shannon.

「Shannon, are you okay?」

Shannon nodded at Miranda who was acting like a big sister.

「Poyopoyo——not that. That Monica, her body was repaied. She was repaired by sucking the gigolo bastard's mana. Don't you think that's impossible Onee-sama?」

The reason Shannon was disturbed was because she saw the flow of mana in large amount flowing out from Lyle to Monica.

It wasn't because she couldn't accept Monica's death and lost her cool.

Miranda shrugged and warned her.

「Don't call Lyle gigolo bastard. More importantly, I have a bit of business to take care of so I'll act alone.」

Shannon clutched Miranda's clothes. She was calmer now than when the battle was going on, but she was still looking scared from uneasiness.

「By yourself? That's dangerous Onee-sama.」

Miranda said 「It's alright」 to the worried Shannon and looked at the bandits lying down on the floor. They were restrained by Miranda's sticky thread.

Around ten people seemed to have escaped during the battle.

Miranda approached Sophia who was watching over the bandits.

「I'll go to observe the situation for a bit. Please watch over these guys while I'm gone.」

Sophia stopped her in panic.

「Please stop taking action alone. There're enemies who escaped, so it's still dangerous. Most of all it'll disturb the party's cohesion.」

Miranda smiled slightly seeing Sophia who was able to express her opinion more clearly than before.

「Oh, how levelheaded. But, it's unfortunate. I'm only going to block the entrance. Lyle is also unable to move, so we have to be as sure as sure can be.」

Aria who heard that approached.

「Then, I'll come with you. It's dangerous to go alone.」

Miranda looked around.

「It'll be fine. More importantly watch over these guys. I've restrained the black clothed men really carefully, but bluntly speaking they're eerie so I want the two of you to stay here.」

The black clothed men certainly were skilled.

It was simply Lyle was too strong that they were taken care of in the blink of eye.

Miranda thought of them as eerie because to her it looked like they were lacking emotion.

Miranda couldn’t help but feeling concerned of that.

(Just what’s the deal with these guys?)

There were also wounded men. The adventurers were groaning, and yet the men in black clothes weren’t making any sound at all.

However they also weren’t dead.

「I’ll leave it to you.」

She said that and left the room. Miranda entered the passage and aimed toward floor B29.

Miranda’s Art──it was something to produce string from her body.

She was able to create string from sticky string until tough string.

She could use the string to block the entrance or set up trap.

Originally doing something like that inside dungeon was a manner violation among adventurer. If someone blocked a passage as they pleased, it would be a bother for the other adventurers.

However, currently there were only her allies and enemies in this location.

It was also possible that the bandits who escaped would attack their party once more.

Though the possibility of that was extremely low.

Miranda walked through the empty corridor while producing string at her surrounding.

The strings were moving as though they had their own will. They entangled with each other and then weaved to make a shape.

It created the shape of a skeletal structure that looked like a large feline carnivore. Miranda snapped her fingers.

The passage of the dungeon was made from concrete, and yet soil appeared from somewhere and enveloped the skeletal structure as flesh.

Before she created a spider when fighting Lyle.

However, today she was using a black panther as her model.

Miranda made the panther to be bigger than the real thing and got on its back, then the thing dashed through the passage and arrived at floor B29.

Miranda looked around.

「……I'll have to thank Lyle.」

Miranda saw through that Lyle intentionally didn't kill the enemy.

He must be feeling considerate of them or perhaps of Shannon who was still childish mentally.

「But, I'm a woman who will give payback to what has been done to me.」

The black panther broke into a run and entered the nearby rooms with Miranda on its back, searching for those who escaped.

She didn't see any monster. She guessed it was because Ludhor and his group had defeated them while following their party.

And then Miranda muttered when she entered the third room.

「Here they are.」

There were several adventurers who had escaped inside the room.

Miranda got down from the black panther and brushed up her hair.

「Go.」

The panther growled and attacked the adventurers inside the room.

She wouldn't kill them, but the adventurers who were attacked by the large black panther that was more than six meter big lost their consciousness.

When the room got quiet, Miranda entered inside.

She looked at the supplies.

「Oh, they're really bringing a lot here.」

Water and food, and then a mountain of consumable goods like weapons and the like.

Miranda smirked in front of those things.

She looked for the container filled with water and threw away the content.

The water was dumped on the floor, but the mysterious working of dungeon absorbed that kind of discarded thing.

After seeing the water disappearing as though it was seeping into the floor, Miranda replenished the water container with "water created from magic" in exchange.

「I'm not naïve. I'll make you all regret targeting Shannon.」

Saying that, Miranda got back on the black panther and returned to where her comrades were at──.

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──Floor B30.

Aria approached one of the men in black clothes that were restrained.

She did that in order to collect the weapon that fell nearby. She was on her guard while taking the weapon.

When she glanced at the man, he had a blank gaze.

「Really, just what's with this. Miranda is going alone, and Lyle also fainted.」

It was then.

The man muttered in a small voice.

「……Celes-sama.」

Aria turned toward the man, but she was unable to hear it clearly.

「What did you say?」

She glared at the man, but he didn't react at all.

It would be better if he at least showed some kind of reaction, but the man in black clothes didn't say anything more after that.

「Just what's the deal with these guys?」

Aria sighed while moving away from the man──.

.

──Clara was having a talk with Novem about their plan after this.

Because Lyle was currently unavailable, the girls had to take action by themselves.

「It's dangerous to stay here like this. Let's start moving immediately.」

Clara also agreed with Novem's suggestion.

「I don't mind but, what're we going to do about them?」

Novem answered Clara's question coldly.

Novem who was flustered from worrying about Lyly couldn't be found there.

「We don't have any leeway to take them with us to the surface. They're academy student──or rather they're noble, so it's troublesome to deal with them.」

Even if they brought them back it would be troublesome if those students harbored unjustified resentment toward them.

After Novem said that, Clara guessed it.

(It will be troublesome even if we hand them over to the guild.)

For better or worse, Arumsaas was a city where the academy had greater authority than the adventurer guild.

A lot of the people that were enrolled into the academy were young people from wealthy house like noble or successful merchant.

The enemies that attacked Clara and others were also noble.

Obviously this would become troublesome.

「I also agree, but I'm worried about what Lyle-san will think. In the end, Lyle-san didn't kill them. Won't he oppose leaving them here?」

However Novem was coldhearted to the end.

The devotion that she directed toward Lyle wasn't directed to the attackers at the slightest.

「It's realistically impossible to take along all of them with us. Besides even if we hand over the academy students who are the ringleader of this to the authority……at best they will only get expelled. There might be retaliation from Circry House because they attacked Miranda-san and Shannon-chan though.」

Certainly it would be impossible to move while bringing along more than forty people who were previously targeting them.

Even if they protected them while moving toward the surface, the food and water were limited.

Even if they obtained the enemy's belonging, their party numbered fewer than the enemy.

Clara herself didn't want to do something like moving toward the surface while protecting people who they couldn't lower their guard against.

Besides, the possibility that trouble would occur after returning them to the surface was high.

Considering the hasty and simplistic action of the attackers, it was obvious that they would only hold unjustified resentment for them.

「You're right. Then, it might be better to move while Lyle-san is unconscious.」

Novem nodded.

「Let's start preparing to leave. Besides, this is only their just desserts.」

Clara felt slightly scared at Novem who wasn't like usual.

(Is it because we were targeted?)

Clara also started preparing to leave from here──.

.

The round table room inside the Jewel.

When I noticed I was sitting on my chair.

The ancestors sitting around the round table was making applause.

『Congrats~, you safely finished the task. We never thought that you will finish it this fast.』

The grinning Third asked me about the task this time.

『Lyle, what do you honestly think about the task this time?』

I reflected in front of everybody.

「Was it to made me aware that I relied too much on the Arts?」

I was relying too much on the Arts until now.

The incident this time was enough to make me painfully aware of that.

With a party that didn't function properly, I couldn't do anything myself without any Art.

The Second scratch his cheek.

『You aren't wrong, but that's not all. What we wanted to see, was how Lyle would act in a situation where you're forbidden to use Arts.』

「Me?」

The ancestors nodded.

The Fourth spoke about the true meaning of the task this time.

『There is also bad side in relying on Arts. But, Lyle was also right in the aspect of skillfully using them.』

The Third also nodded.

『After all using tool correctly is only something natural. Well, it's also important to be aware of its inconvenience but, it can also be said that there isn't really any problem with it.』

It seemed that the ancestors were thinking that there wouldn't be any problem even if I fought by relying on Arts.

In that case, why were they testing me?

How I would act, was something like that important?

The Sixth seemed to think that I didn't get it and laughed heartily.

『In short, what we wanted to see was what kind of solution Lyle would come up with in a situation without Arts. Honestly speaking, it would be fine even if you were more cunning you know?』

The Fifth spoke expressionlessly.

『The task was to conquer floor B30 in a situation where you are forbidden to use Arts. The silver weapon was also forbidden to be used, but that in itself isn't a problem. Listen well, conquer floor B30 without Arts. That was the task that we gave you.』

I thought for a bit……and then realized.

「Could it be, what you mean is……it would be fine no matter what kind of method I used?」

The Seventh snapped his fingers.

『Of course. Did we say to accomplish the task with only your party? We didn't say that. In other words, you were free to do anything no matter what.』

I stood up in shock.

「Ple, please wait! Isn't that strange!?」

The Fourth tilted his head.

『I don't understand what you mean by strange.』

I took a deep breath, and then I spoke of my thought to the ancestors.

「You all gave me that task because you were worried of me overly relying on the Arts wasn't it? Right!?」

The Second nodded.

『Well, that was one of the reasons I guess.』

I banged my hands on the table.

「Then, why are you saying that I was free to do anything!? I thought that meant you all were telling me to train things like our individual ability, or teamwork, or that kind of things more!」

I was thinking that I was given this task because the ancestors were viewing our insufficient capability as problem.

The Second folded his arms and nodded.

『I also thought that. In fact, you all had come to Arumsaas, so I thought it would also be fine if your party members polish their respective ability and you increase the size of the party. It wouldn't take just several months. It might take a year or two year. It might even take you ten years to learn and grow stronger here. Even so that would be fine in my opinion.』

However the Third laughed at the Second's opinion.

『Is that so? I think that'd be a waste of time. In fact Lyle would be able to use Arts if he accomplished the task. If it was me then I'd join a party that could conquer floor B30. It wasn't like we told you to defeat the floor boss with your own party.』

The Third say that the task could be accomplished by asking someone who could defeat the floor boss to do so while we only needed to learn by observation. It made me felt dizzy.

「Using that way wouldn't solve anything!」

『But, isn't that the easiest method to accomplish the task? Lyle, you're a bit too hardheaded.』

The Fourth was exasperated at the Third's opinion.

『How many party do you think there is that can defeat the floor boss? Besides you would need to be lucky to find one that would aim until floor B30. One shouldn't rely on a method that is largely relying on luck factor.』

「That's right! That's the right way isn't it!」

The calm Fourth fixed the position of his glasses.

『If it was me I'd make a request to a party that's capable to conquer that floor and come along with them.』

「You're the same with him!」

What was different from the Third's opinion was only in taking initiative to make a request to accomplish the task. The solving method itself was mostly the same.

It didn't depend on luck factor, but in exchange there would be financial expense.

『There wouldn't be any problem even if you splurged somewhat extravagantly. Lyle has that much assets for that after all. Well, just remember that in the end this is only the talk of what I'd do if I'm given the same task.』

I was exasperated at the opinions of these two that were mostly the same and turned my gaze to the silent Fifth.

Was this person also thinking strange solution for this task?

The Fifth was offended that I was sending him a doubting gaze.

『What's with those eyes? If it's me then I'd use a solution that'll also be more useful for the future.』

「……By the way what is that solution?」

The Fifth put his hand on his chin.

『Let's see. First I'd invite strong people and capable people into the party right away. You can also scout someone from other party.』

The Fifth spoke simply that I could just gather capable people from the start.

「No, I won't be troubled if I could do that!」

『Idiot. Your reputation wasn't bad before your continuous failure. When your fame was on the rise after completing Damian's request, you could use it to recruit capable people by giving them good conditions. Otherwise you could also just hire people temporarily. There were a lot of things you could do.』

When I thought that I didn't want to hear this anymore, the Sixth affirmed my thinking.

『I also understand how Lyle feel. You wanted to defeat the floor boss with your own party weren't you? I get it. I really get it.』

「That's right! I believe that if it's the Sixth you would under──」

『Well, if it's me then I'll cooperate with multiple parties to conquer floor B30. In the first place whether you're hiring people or welcoming them as party member, it will be troublesome to keep the relationship forever. There is this thing called affinity between people. You can first try working together with them, and if it goes well then you can accept them as party member after that.』

The Sixth said that if I simply needed number, then ask for the cooperation with other parties.

How should I say it, after being told this far then certainly I got the feeling that I was mistaken.

It would be better if I got closer with other parties.

If I did that, I might be able to obtain their cooperation.

It took time to finish the task because I was thinking that I had to do it with our own strength.

The Seventh told me the true meaning of the task.

『Lyle, regarding the result it didn't matter how you finished the task. Even if your party spent several years working hard to grow stronger, surely that will also be useful for your future. You could also accomplish the task by making use of your wit. That kind of cleverness will be useful for your future. There won't be any problem even if you relied on money. Because surely you will earn a lot of money from here on too. Even if you invited skilled people to your party, or even if you only hired them temporarily, that also wouldn't be a problem. Though it was surprising how you created Porter.』

The Third was really delighted.

『That was really surprising. I never even imagined that Lyle would finish the task with that kind of method. In a sense you've gone above and beyond.』

It seemed that even the ancestors didn't expect that I would create Porter that would then become a powerful ally in conquering the dungeon.

I powerlessly sat down on my chair.

「……It would be great if you told me that beforehand.」

The Third was grinning.

『We spoke of the task several times. It was Lyle's own fault for not noticing it.』

On the contrary the Second praised me.

『I think this is better instead. You recognized what is lacking from you and your comrades and tried to improve on it. And those idiot duo also got fired up thanks to Miranda-chan.』

It seemed the Second thought that the two of them were growing up instead due to Miranda-san provoking them.

The Fifth looked at me and smiled.

『In the end, there isn't anything like an absolutely correct answer. Even so you can only continue to make your answer, that's life. What was important was how you accomplished the tax.』

「This makes me like an idiot for worrying a lot like that.」

The Sixth was laughing.

『Worry a lot. However, after worrying make your decision. The worst choice is to not make any answer after all.』

I looked around.

「Come to think of it, what's happening outside?」

The Fourth shrugged.

『We don't understand because Lyle fainted. Well, you will be able to learn it soon.』

It seemed the function of the Jewel was down because my mana was absorbed too much.

I wondered if such thing was possible but, according to the ancestors the function was recovering so there was no need to worry.

The Seventh let out a small sigh.

『However, Poyopoyo, no, Monika was surprising. She could heal even from that state. No, is it better to call it repaired?』

With this as the beginning, an idle talk began after that.

I also talked with the ancestors inside the Jewel until I woke up.

.

──Night.

Lyle's party arrived at floor B5.

Novem slipped out alone from the room where they were camping in and entered a room where there was no monster or human inside.

She confirmed that there wasn't the presence of anyone around, then she touched the concrete wall inside the darkness.

She was expressionless.

And then she muttered.

「……Those who targeted Lyle-sama's life are unforgivable. Even if Miranda-san had already taken measure, it wasn't perfect.」

From the spot that Novem touched with her hand, red lines formed on the concrete wall like blood veins.

The pulsing wall was gradually affecting the whole dungeon.

Novem closed her eyes.

「……Aa, there they are. They're trembling in floor B29.」

The way she spoke was as though she could see with her own eyes how the attackers at floor B29 were doing.

Like that Novem's hand moved away.

When she opened her eyes, she returned toward the room where they were camping as though nothing had happened──.

.

──Floor B29.

The attackers were gathered.

Ludhor's wounded face was wrapped with bandage.

He was muttering ‘it hurt, it hurt’ while complaining to the surrounding.

「You guys, do the preparation quickly!」

Miranda untied the restrain before their party left.

It hurt Ludhor’s pride.

「How dare those guys made fun of me. When I get outside I’ll punish them thoroughly──」

Ludhor felt thirsty and took out water from the belonging. He drank while enduring his pain. The inside of his mouth was also seriously wounded and it hurt.

「Damn it. If I know something like this can happen then I’d learn healing magic……oi, you guys, what are you doing?」

When he looked around, the adventurers and his friends were crouching while holding their stomach.

「My, my stomach……」

「Is the water spoiled? Oi, someone bring medicine.」

「Why is this happening to me……」

Everyone had diarrhea.

Ludhor’s stomach was also getting odd and he went pale, but then the room suddenly shook.

「Wha, what? What is it this time──」

Ludhor had been beaten up, his stomach hurt, and he was getting cornered mentally. Everyone was also going through the same thing like him. In that state they were witnessing monsters getting born from the wall.

Ludhor and others opened their eyes wide.

「No, no way.」

The number of the monster also wasn't just one or two.

The varieties of monster that were troublesome even among those appearing at floor B29 were coming out one after another. They were looking at Ludhor and others while drooling.

It seemed they were hungry after appearing only just now.

Ludhor pointed his left arm.

He fired his magic, but the number of monster he defeated was two or three at best.

Monsters were appearing one after another inside the room.

「No. NOOOOOO!!」

Ludhor continued firing his magic, but screams quickly rose from the surrounding.

The attackers were killed without being unable to fight back.

Ludhor got surrounded. Even his magic stopped appearing from his hand and he became unable to resist.

Ludhor was crying, and then he spoke with a feeble voice.

「……Ple, please help」

The words that he wouldn't listen to when they were said by the adventurers he attacked no matter how many times those words were said. Ludhor continued to yell those words.

「Help! I'll do anything! I'll do anything so please help! I won't do anything like this anymore! I won't do it again so please!」

He continued to scream toward the monsters who couldn't be talked with.

The monsters opened their large mouth toward the screaming Ludhor and bit.

The screams of Ludhor and other attackers spread through floor B29 inside the dungeon, but there was no other adventurer there other than them.

In other words, no help would come──.

Chapter 66 – I Am Kind

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——The next day after Lyle's party returned from the dungeon.

Miranda and co received summon from the adventurer guild.

The reason was the death of a lot of adventurers who entered the dungeon at the same time with them.

Miranda and others were called because there was a possibility of their involvement with that.

In fact they were involved, but Miranda and others didn't report it.

It was because they understood completely that it would become a problem if they said that they were attacked.

Other than Miranda, Sophia and Aria also attended.

This time the adventurer guild was investigating seriously because there were academy students who died.

The students who died were noble was also one of the reasons the problem became big.

The academy forcefully demanded the guild to investigate the matter and so the guild poured considerable focus on the investigation.

The investigating staff from adventurer guild was a thin man wearing black rimmed glasses with desolate looking head.

The staff acted impudently borrowing the influence of the academy.

He continuously questioned the three of them insistently.

「Why isn't your party leader here?」

Miranda shrugged.

「The leader has only just woken up. As expected he hasn't recovered his stamina enough that we can bring him here.」

Lyle woke up this morning.

It was the fact that he seemed exhausted, but it wasn't to the degree that he would be unable to bring himself here.

But, Miranda thought that there would be no problem if she came personally rather than bringing Lyle to this place.

The staff was looking displeased. Normally he would be bowing and scraping because she was a noble and also Damian's acquaintance, but this time he was getting cocky because there was the order from the academy.

「Well, doesn't matter. Then, I'll ask you to explain in detail about what happened after your party entered the dungeon. First, did you encounter with the people in this list inside the dungeon?」

Aria and Sophia were sitting with awkward expression.

Miranda took a look at the list.

「We didn't. We only explored floor B30 and then returned back.」

She lied with a smile. The staff swung down his fist on the table.

His fist was small and thin so it only made a small sound.

「Check it again carefully! If you make even one lie, that will become a serious problem!」

Miranda tilted her head.

「Serious problem? Adventurer dying inside the dungeon is a normal thing isn't it? Were you investigating that this seriously every time it happened?」

The staff stared at Miranda while speaking of the situation in irritation. It was because he knew Miranda was a daughter of a viscount house.

「Young people of noble houses died. The academy also told us to clarify the reason it happened. As a fellow noble you should be able to understand that much shouldn't you?」

He is doing the right thing.

It seemed the staff was thinking like that. Even when facing Miranda, his cocky attitude didn't crumble.

Miranda let out a small sigh.

「……And?」

The staff continued.

「I'm telling you to talk about everything that happened in the dungeon this time. What kind of monster you fought in which floor, and then what kind of action you made!」

Miranda shrugged and spoke.

「I don't remember all that. Because, normally we never reported that kind of things. I'll try to remember as much as possible after this. Are we finished now?」

Miranda continued seeing that vein was pulsing on the staff's forehead.

「I can understand making effort because it's a request from the academy but……our answer will be the same no matter how many times you asked.」

Like that the questioning continued until the staff got tired and let them go──.

.

──After the questioning was over.

Miranda stretched outside the adventurer guild.

There was a large commotion since the morning because more than fifty adventurers died.

Miranda was elusively lying for several hours of the questioning until they were let go.

Aria and Sophia who witnessed that stared suspiciously at Miranda.

「Miranda, it's amazing that you could lie like that.」

Sophia-san looked dissatisfied.

「At the very least we should tell the truth and expose their deed to the public. Why do we have to lie like that?」

Sophia insisted that they should bring the attackers back with them to the surface when they were going to withdraw from the dungeon.

Miranda appreciated her diligence and kindness, but she treated that request coldly because she was aware that it would be meaningless to do what she asked.

「Then, do you intend to tell them that we abandoned those people? Even if we brought them back they wouldn't reflect on what they did and would even resent us unjustly. Even if we speak the truth it will only increase our problem. Poetic justice. It's fine if you just think of it as them being ruined because of their own deed.」

Sophia's shoulders dropped.

It was realistically impossible to bring back everyone to the surface.

No matter how great Porter was, it couldn't be filled with more than forty people and still moved.

Even if it was possible, Novem absolutely wouldn't allow it.

Aria pressed her forehead with her hand.

「Miranda, you went too far. Sophia has been bothered about it since yesterday. She isn't thinking only about herself like you.」

Miranda smiled at Aria's barbed statement.

「Oh, I can't just ignore that. You made it sounded like I'm a cold blooded woman who is only thinking of myself.」

Sophia shook her head.

「I think that Miranda-san and Novem-san are correct. But, I can't accept it. Besides, it might be rude to say this but……that, it's」

Aria spoke in Sophia's place seeing she was troubled like that.

「Bluntly speaking you're a cold blooded woman. Be aware of that for a bit. Because of your fault the party is tattered. The atmosphere also feel bad.」

In front of Aria who was like that and the dissatisfied looking Sophia, Miranda said.

「Both of you're really rude. I'll say this, I am kind you know?」

The two made a face that said 「Kind where!?」 and looked at Miranda.

Miranda nodded.

「If you aren't convinced then come with me. I'll show the two of you what a harem party is.」

She said that, then the three of them headed to somewhere──.

.

──A young man appeared in the adventurer guild.

He passed by Miranda and the two others and entered inside. It was Nurx.

Today too he visited the receptionist with a smile and talked with the reception woman who had a serious look.

「Can't you do something so we can enter the dungeon?」

The reception woman was blushing slightly while endeavoring to treat Nurx politer than usual.

「I think it's difficult right now because we're busy with various things. But, a lot of adventurer has just died, so I believe that after the cause is investigated there'll be recruitment for new party to be permitted to enter the dungeon.」

Normally the staff would finish it shortly by saying 「No way」, but there were few women who could take that kind of attitude in front of a refreshing handsome young man like Nurx.

「Really!? Then what should I do to be able to be included within the quota?」

「Nurx-san's party is too small in scale. If you can ask four supporters to join your party exclusively──」

A young man who had just become an adventurer was watching that. His equipment was of lower quality than Nurx, and he also lost in appearance. He was watching the two who seemed to be intimate with each other in frustration.

「Even though she told me to not talk to her needlessly because she is in the middle of working when it was my turn」

The party of the young man who looked like he was going to cry consisted of only man.

The harem parties that were famous in Arumsaas were Lyle's party and the party of Nurx who only recently moved here. Naturally the

young man also knew that Nurx also had other women staying at his side.

A senior adventurer was exasperated seeing the young man like that.

「You, could it be you have a yearning toward harem party?」

「Obviously! Every single day there is only the smell of guys around me! I want woman's warmth around me!」

The senior turned his gaze toward a trio of women.

Over there was the figures of female warriors who dressed in an outfit that exposed a lot of their body, but their body was muscular.

「There are three women there, how about you call out to them?」

The young man protested fiercely.

「Not that bunch that look like amazoness, my preference is a girl like a dainty magician that will make me want to protect her!」

The senior who didn't have the slightest interest at the young man's preference replied 「H~mph」.

But…….

「Then, it's better that you give up.」

「No way! I became adventurer because I want to be popular. Rather than giving up on my dream, plowing farm in my village is still better!」

The senior was looking at the young man like he was looking at a pitiful thing.

「You……look around you carefully.」

The young man looked carefully around him just as he was told.

「There're also a lot of female adventurers right?」

「There’re many but, somehow everyone look boorish, they’re too burly that it killed my enthusiasm.」

Muscular warriors.

The females other than them were also burly and weren’t inferior against the men.

「A woman who become adventurer will one day become like that.」

「Lies! Because, I saw the party of that Lyle guy. I found my ideal there!」

The senior thrust the reality toward the young man who felt envious seeing Lyle’s party.

「That guy called Lyle is first class if you look at him as adventurer. It’s natural that women are surrounding him but, you should just give up on harem.」

「Why’s that!?」

The senior got a slightly distant look.

「Even though it’s already hard dealing with just one woman, dealing with a lot of them……that’s impossible.」

In front of the senior who was making an enlightened look, even the young man started to slightly think that there might be some kind of problem with a harem party──.

.

──It was a narrow alley with dim lighting.

Sophia was taken there by Miranda. There she saw an unbelievable sight.

In front of her were the party members of Nurx who Lyle got close with.

Four people were gathering in a narrow alley where there was no one looking. The atmosphere was on edge.

The four were glaring at each other. Aria and Sophia were huddling close to each other and trembling from seeing that scene.

「You bitch, you were too close to Nurx even though you're the newcomer.」

The woman dressed as warrior grabbed the collar of the glasses girl wearing academy uniform.

But, the glasses girl didn't stay quiet.

「Don't touch me! You stink.」

「What did you say you bitch!」

It was a scene of the newcomer glasses girl being surrounded by the other three.

(Eh? Eh!? What in the world is this……)

While Sophia's mind was in chaos, the talk was getting even more complicated.

The female dressed as thief was joining her hands behind her head.

「Still, you're also bothersome. When Nurx isn't here, can you stop acting like you're the leader and giving us order? In addition your orders are also often mistaken.」

The girl dressed as magician continued.

「Your attitude like you're supporting Nurx, it's irritating watching that.」

This time it was the warrior woman who became the criticized side.

However, after a little bit, this time it was the thief girl who got harped on by everyone else.

When they noticed the event developed into an exchange of blows.

Miranda explained to the two.

「You two see how they're hitting at body parts that are hidden by their clothes? Man won't notice anything even if he is looking at those spots.」

As expected even Nurx would notice if they were wounded.

The four were hitting at inconspicuous place so that wouldn't happen.

At the end, everyone hit and insulted each other once more……and when it was over the four broke up and went their own way.

Aria was trembling.

「Lies. Because, when I saw them before they were smiling. All four of them together!」

Sophia had also seen similar sight.

Because she had seen that harmonious sight she was bothered why their own party was in a state this horrible.

「Thi, this is worse than even us.」

Miranda was laughing.

「At holidays, all of them are basically on their own except when they are together with Nurx-san. They will badmouth the other three girls as they pleased to other adventurers who they got acquainted with in Arumsaas.」

The women who insulted and hit each other.

This was a side of the women who Nurx didn't know anything about.
Miranda continued.

「I think they're also doing various things at place where no one is looking but, I don't like that kind of thing so──」

「Miranda-san!」

Sophia hugged Miranda.

「I was wrong. I've been thinking about it since some time ago. Miranda-san, you said those horrible things to us were actually for our sake wasn't it?」

Aria was surprised.

「Eh, is that so?」

Miranda was also making a troubled face. Sophia continued.

「I was convinced after seeing those four today. If you feel like it you'll be able to drive us out and live together with Lyle-dono, and yet you don't do that. You're still the same kind Miranda-san like when we first met! I……I'm sorry!」

Sophia cried and apologized. Miranda was only smiling wryly in front of her.

Even Aria was infected and cried.

「Miranda, just why are you always this kind!」

Miranda could do nothing else except soothing the two who were crying──.

.

──The next day.

Miranda sighed inside her room.

「Haa, how did it end up like this?」

Since the morning Aria and Sophia were becoming emotionally attached to her. Lyle who saw that looked really happy.

That in itself wasn't a problem, but in Miranda's plan she wanted to put some distance with Aria and Sophia──with the two of them and kept it like that.

But just because she showed them the ugly quarrel of fellow woman yesterday, their evaluation of Miranda increased too much.

「……Well, I don't dislike their stupidity that is like Shannon so it's fine I guess.」

If the two of them looked up to her then that was also fine.

They had stopped being puppet that only obeyed Novem's opinion without saying anything now, and from here on she also intended to foster friendship with them moderately.

In the first place the cause of Miranda provoking them──was Novem.

Both of them blindly believed the opinion of Novem who sometimes issued them instructions and led them by the nose. They looked up at Novem more than toward Lyle. Because they were doing that too much, Miranda guided them so that things became like she wanted.

Miranda sat on the chair quietly for a while, staring at outside the window. Then she began compounding. It was because of the necessity of making her tools like the explosives by herself.

「Now then, perhaps this time I should prepare something with slightly lower strength.」

When she was going to start her work, the sound of running footsteps came from the corridor.

This footsteps belonged to Shannon.

Furthermore it was her footsteps when she was in a good mood.

「Onee-sama!」

「Shannon, enter the room only after knocking and waiting for the reply.」

Shannon was dejected when she warned her but she immediately smiled again.

It seemed that the reason was Aria and Sophia.

「I heard it, Onee-sama. As I thought Onee-sama is kind Onee-sama! I completely thought that my Onee-sama is a slightly scary person!」

Miranda wanted to hold her heads hearing her little sister saying that with a smile.

Shannon was ignorant of the ways of the world.

Miranda was worried about how she was extremely easy to be tricked.

That was why her misunderstanding should be corrected.

「Shannon……I'm certainly kind.」

「Yes!」

「But you see, that's because that's what Lyle wished for.」

「That's right! ……Eh?」

After Shannon replied energetically, she felt puzzled at Miranda's line. Miranda spoke to Shannon who was looking at her with a perplexed face.

「You see, I love Lyle. I can't forgive that there are other women around that Lyle. Do you understand until this far?」

「……I, I somehow understand.」

It was doubtful whether Shannon actually understood or not, but Miranda had to correct her mistaken impression.

「It's not rare for noble to have mistress or lover. It's not like I really mind even if there are other women. I'll tolerate them. That's how much I love Lyle. But you see……that doesn't mean I want the

number of woman to increase. I absolutely don't want to recommend more woman like Novem.」

Shannon nodded several times wordlessly.

「Let's talk hypothetically. I who entered the party after everyone else drive out the other party members. Do you know what Lyle will think about that?」

Shannon thought for a bit.

「I don't know!」

Miranda smiled.

「It's good that you're honest. Surely it won't be pleasant for Lyle. And then he will think of me as nuisance.」

「It's unforgivable that gigolo bastard will think of Onee-sama as a nuisance!」

「That's so. It's unforgivable isn't it. In that case, what do you think will be the best act to take?」

「I don't know!」

Miranda wasn't exasperated even when looking at Shannon who honestly proclaimed she didn't understand. Rather, she even thought that her stupid side was cute.

「It's simple. Don't let the number of woman to increase more than this. And then become the number one among the members right now. That's the best way.」

Shannon was perplexed at that answer of her big sister while asking timidly.

「O, Onee-sama? If that's the case, won't it be no good if you often make that gigolo bastard feel scared?」

Miranda sometimes would show Lyle of quarrel between women.

From her explanation just now, that action felt unnecessary if she wanted to be liked by Lyle.

「It's necessary. If we get along at the surface, Lyle will think that things are going well and increase the number of girls. Lyle……he is wonderful. I believe that a lot of women will appear aiming for him. I've got to be careful because Novem will pick the capable women among them and say that it's alright for them to join the party.」

Shannon was dumbfounded.

She was making a face that said she couldn't believe her big sister.

After all, her big sister was seriously saying that Lyle was just too wonderful. Of course Shannon couldn't believe her.

「If, this is just what if.」

「Hm?」

「If that gigolo bastard isn't particularly bothered with women quarrel, or that he isn't interested at Aria or Sophia──」

Miranda replied with a straight face.

「I'll immediately drive them out from the party. Obviously. I can do something like that right away, there also won't be any problem at all.」

Shannon was already tearful.

「O, Onee-sama, if I'm being a nuisance than you」

「No way. Shannon is my cute little sister. Don't worry.」

Shannon was making a face that was saying she couldn't feel relieved at all.

「The best outcome will be if I monopolize Lyle for myself. It will be better if there isn't any other woman, but I think someone at Lyle's level will need one or two mistresses. You know, he is a former noble and also earn a lot of money right? Because of that, as expected I want to fix the party with only the current members. Ah, if possible I want to secure Clara. A driver for Porter is essential after all.」

Shannon was silently listening in front of Miranda who was talking of her ideal──.

.

Several days after I finished the task.

I visited Clara-san. We talked like usual in the library's break room.

This time it wasn't a talk about work.

「Actually I'm thinking of leaving Arumsaas. It won't be right away, but when our preparation is finished we will head to the royal capital Centralle first.」

They wouldn't stay there for long. But, that place was just right before they moved ahead.

Clara-san smiled with a slightly lonely look.

「I see. It will be lonely. But, thanks to working together with Lyle-san, I was also able to earn a lot of money. There was also the matter with Porter, it was a good experience for me.」

I made a request to Clara-san.

「Also I have one request. Clara-san said that you want the same thing as the reward of your cooperation in completing Porter didn't you? As expected it will take some time to prepare the same thing like Porter.
」

Clara-san tilted her head.

「No, it will be enough for me if I can receive the prototype model.」

「No no, a promise is a promise. Actually Monica secured the parts at Damian's place, but we can't obtain the magic ore no matter what. And so, I'm thinking to search for the magic ore at other region in order to fulfill that promise.」

Clara-san was slightly surprised.

「I, is that so? I don't wish for Lyle-san to go that far though.」

The Third was noisy inside the Jewel.

『Seduce her just like usual! Can't you do it when you're being conscious of it? Hey, quickly make Clara-chan into your formal party member already!』

The Third who loved book really liked Clara-san. Because of that he wouldn't stop insisting that Clara-san should be added into my party.

「Clara-san, won't you go together with us in order to fulfill the promise?」

Clara-san slightly shook her head at my proposal.

「That's an attractive proposal but I'll refuse. I'm a supporter, besides there is library in Arumsaas here.」

Arumsaas must be a really good place for Clara-san.

But, I was troubled like this.

「……It's not like you will need to live outside this city forever. But, don't you want to see the outside world? Actually, I had been living all the time inside the mansion until some time ago and didn't know much about the world.」

Clara-san smiled wryly.

「I've the feeling that's the case.」

「I, is that so? We, well, simply put, won't you go travelling with the premise that someday you will return to Arumsaas? You will be able to make new experiences at the world outside.」

「That's a charming suggestion but, I──」

The Third was fretting at Clara-san's reluctance to accept the proposal and got noisy.

『Be more serious! What's with this! Even though usually you would trick woman with a sweeter move!』

That was a terrible accusation.

There I thought of one thing.

「Come to think of it, Arumsaas is gathering book from the whole world isn't it?」

Clara-san immediately became talkative.

It seemed she really loved book.

「Yes. However, it can't be said that it has everything. There are also books that are carefully kept only at that region after all, and there are also many cases when even though they have library like Arumsaas, people cannot bring out the book from there. I want to try reading those books, but only this is……」

I simply spoke what was in my mind.

「Won't it be fine if you just read it right at the actual place?」

Clara-san gasped in realization.

「That's certainly true. One year? No, if I travel around for several years to read various things and then return here to produce the book……. Lyle-san, please take me with you.」

She accepted surprisingly easily.

.

Damian’s laboratory.

I visited there and handed Porter’s blueprint to Damian.

「Is it alright? I think you’ll be able to earn more if you make business with it by yourself.」

The reason was simply for money. I asked the academy to purchase the blueprint of Porter.

「I’m moving forward, and I won’t be able to do nothing except developing this. It will be a waste to leave it alone so I think it will be better if the academy handle it in order to popularize it too.」

The Fourth sounded disappointed.

『If Lyle is a merchant, it might be possible for you to become a big merchant by using this.』

He sounded frustrated, but I was an adventurer.

I also didn’t plan of doing business using Porter at my spare time.

Damian handed the blueprint to Lily-san.

「Got it. I’ll deal with the academy. This will become a good business so surely they will buy it with high price. Ah, the prototype model will be purchased as example, is that alright?」

「I’m fine with it.」

Damian looked at Porter’s blueprint and put his hand on his chin.

「Even so, with this it will also be possible to use it as transport of massive quantity of item. Perhaps I’ll also make one and use it for purchasing from here on.」

It seemed there would also be times when Damian would need to buy various materials necessary for research and he considered Porter as attractive for his travelling method at that time.

Damian looked at me.

「And, when will you depart?」

「There are also various procedures to take care of so I think it will be in one more month. I'm planning to go to Centralle and then decide there where we're going next.」

Damian shrugged.

「It'll be lonely that someone whose name I remember will be gone. Well, it'll be nice if we can meet again, Lyle.」

「I hope so, Damian.」

I got acquainted with someone really eccentric.

I felt a bit lonely when it became the time to leave.

Epilogue

The preparation to move out from the house of Circry sisters was finished. The house had become really clean.

It seemed that the house was purchased in order for Miranda-san and Shannon to live in, but Miranda-san said that it was unneeded if they departed on a journey and sold it.

It seemed that from the beginning it was a property that was given to them, so they could do as they liked with it.

「Miranda-san has really made up your mind huh.」

When I said that, Miranda-san turned a smile toward me.

「It's unnecessary if I'm coming with Lyle. Well, take care of me from here on too.」

I honestly felt happy to have affection directed toward me but it was embarrassing. Even so…….

「Miranda, is it okay to put the luggage here?」

「Miranda-san, what should I do with this?」

Aria-san and Sophia-san came bringing the luggage of Miranda-san and others.

The friction until now was like a lie.

I asked the two of them what happened, but it seemed Miranda-san was intentionally provoking them to motivate them.

Now that the misunderstanding had been resolved, they got along well like before.

「Wait a second. Lyle, I'll go to do my preparation.」

I saw off Miranda-san walking toward the two of them, then my gaze turned toward Porter.

Monika said that she would remodel it since the morning and slipped below Porter doing something.

「If I install this part, Porter's spec will jump up by three times! Well, I'm lying though. But, thirty percent! No, it should improve by twenty percent?」

She muttered by herself noisily.

Clara-san was also helping with Monika's maintenance work. She was busy since the morning.

Because it would be a journey without using connecting coach, we didn't need to pay attention to departure schedule. It was appreciated.

Novem came to me.

「Lyle-sama, I've finished the procedure in the adventurer guild.」

I asked Novem to take care of the procedure in the guild at my place.

「My bad. If I'm the one going they will nag and make snide remarks at me for some reason.」

Skilled adventurers were leaving from Arumsaas one after another to another region.

The bad service of adventurer guild was one reason for that, but would the day come that the staffs there recognized it?

Novem was also making a slightly tired face.

「The number of adventurers decreased by a lot after all. In addition even us will be leaving so they seem to be troubled.」

Ludhor, Zalsa, Benir……the malicious adventurers had disappeared, but thanks to that the number of party entering the dungeon became

few. Looking at the whole it didn't seem like a great number but, if adventurers with great earning like us wanted to leave then the guild would try to hold us back.

Especially me who caught the eye of Damian. I got persistently nagged by the staffs if I was going to betray this city.

It helped that Novem went to take care of the procedure in my place.

「How long Lyle-sama is planning to stay in Centralle?」

I couldn't answer right away.

「Depend on the situation. I also have the feeling that it's still too early for us to head to the free city Beim, and I also want to take a look at other region before that. It'll be nice if there is a good place somewhere.」

Novem smiled.

「I believe that Lyle-sama will surely find it. Then, I'll also go to prepare.」

Novem also left me in order to pack her own things.

I yawned and stretched up, then I filled my chest with anticipation of what kind of place we'd head next.

Shannon called out to me at that timing. She was holding a candy in her hand.

「What, you come to complain again?」

I made fun of her, but recently Shannon's condition was strange.

We still quarreled, but sometimes she would look at me with a sad face.

Just what was she thinking?

「……Here, for you.」

Shannon was holding her favorite candy. My eyes opened wide.

「Is tomorrow going to rain spear? For you to share your candy with me……could it be poisoned?」

I said jokingly, but Shannon's reaction was bad.

She made a face that was about to cry and shook her head. She said to me.

「I give you this because you're pitiful. In exchange, please take care of Onee-sama okay? I think that perhaps I won't be able to stop her.」

What was this girl saying? Even though I had just confirmed that Miranda-san's personality wasn't as bad as I thought, this girl was giving off a tragic feeling by herself.

I threw the candy I received into my mouth.

「Ah, this is tasty.」

Shannon looked at me and made a sad expression.

「Oi, stop making that face. Just what are you sad about!?」

「It's fine. It's better that you don't know. But, I'm slightly pitying you. I'm slightly pitying this gigolo bastard for real.」

「Don't call me gigolo bastard! You, could it be this is some kind of new harassment!?」

As I thought──I hated existence that was like a little sister!

.

──Inside the Jewel.

The group who was watching Lyle getting along with Shannon had serious face.

The scene that usually would make them say a joke was met with silence.

The Fourth looked at the Second.

The Second who was resolving himself took a small deep breath and then looked at Lyle's face.

Lyle who was having an exchange with Shannon as though they were brother and sister had become really tough now even from the view point of the six of them. He was like a completely different person compared to the beginning when he didn't know left from right.

The Second opened his mouth.

『I think it's time.』

The Third nodded to those words.

『Yeah. If it's Lyle right now, it's not an Art that is beyond him I think? Surely he'll be fine.』

Lyle had learned the Second's Art until the second stage.

Everyone sensed that the time to teach the third stage which was the last stage had arrived.

The Second scratched his head with an embarrassed look.

『I also want to watch him for a bit more but, I will be just a nuisance to keep staying here. Lyle is already alright.』

The reason the memory of the ancestors was resurrected was to teach Lyle their Arts.

At the very least, that was what everyone thought.

And then, they would vanish just like the First if they finished their role.

The Second looked at the silver great sword floating silently inside the room of round table.

『H~m, as expected in my case a bow will come out I think? Or perhaps it's only father who was special? Even though it's weighing my mind the answer won't come out, don't you think that's horrible?』

Everyone said「Certainly」with a small laugh. The Second looked at Lyle with a gentle gaze.

『……He is also still no good in many things but, I'll vanish around here.』

The Second decided to entrust his Art to Lyle.

He believed that if the other ancestors were here, then surely they would guide Lyle.

The Fourth spoke with a lonely look.

『It will be lonely.』

The Second smiled with a troubled look.

『I'll be sad if you guys are happy instead that I'll be gone. Well, perhaps it's just right to come until this far.』

The Third also nodded.

『That's also true. In that case, I wonder if I'll be next in line? I wonder how will Lyle have become when the Seventh vanish.』

The Fifth analyzed jokingly.

『If he is drawing in woman with heavy love then I think he will end up the same like the Sixth, but even Miranda isn't a woman with that heavy of a love. It feels like he will be able to handle things well.』

The Sixth's expression turned sour.

『I wish you won’t compare him with me. Well, let’s just consider it that right now he is growing nicely.』

Lyle’s grandfather the Seventh was hopelessly concerned with Lyle’s future.

『To be able to see my grandson becoming adult who can stand on his own. That’s something to be happy about.』

The Second concluded.

『Yeah. I never thought that I would be able to see my descendant like this. Well, I’m just a memory while the actual person had died already though.』

The Second looked at Lyle who was frolicking with Shannon with a slightly lonely look──.

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